8
レイン
原作
吉野匠
(「レイン」アルファポリス刊)
漫画
住川恵

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月刊コミックブレイド

COMIC BLADE 2

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定価580YEN

新たなる2014年に向けて…

黒き伝説の帰還!!!

最終回

スラッシュダークADV
堂々完結!!

装甲悪鬼村正 魔界編

原作:ニトロプラス
シナリオ協力:後藤みどり
漫画:統弦

表紙&巻頭カラー
連載再開!!

剣と魔法の最強戦士ファンタジー!!!

レイン

Rain

[原作]吉野匠
(「レイン」ルルイボリス刊)
[漫画]住川惠

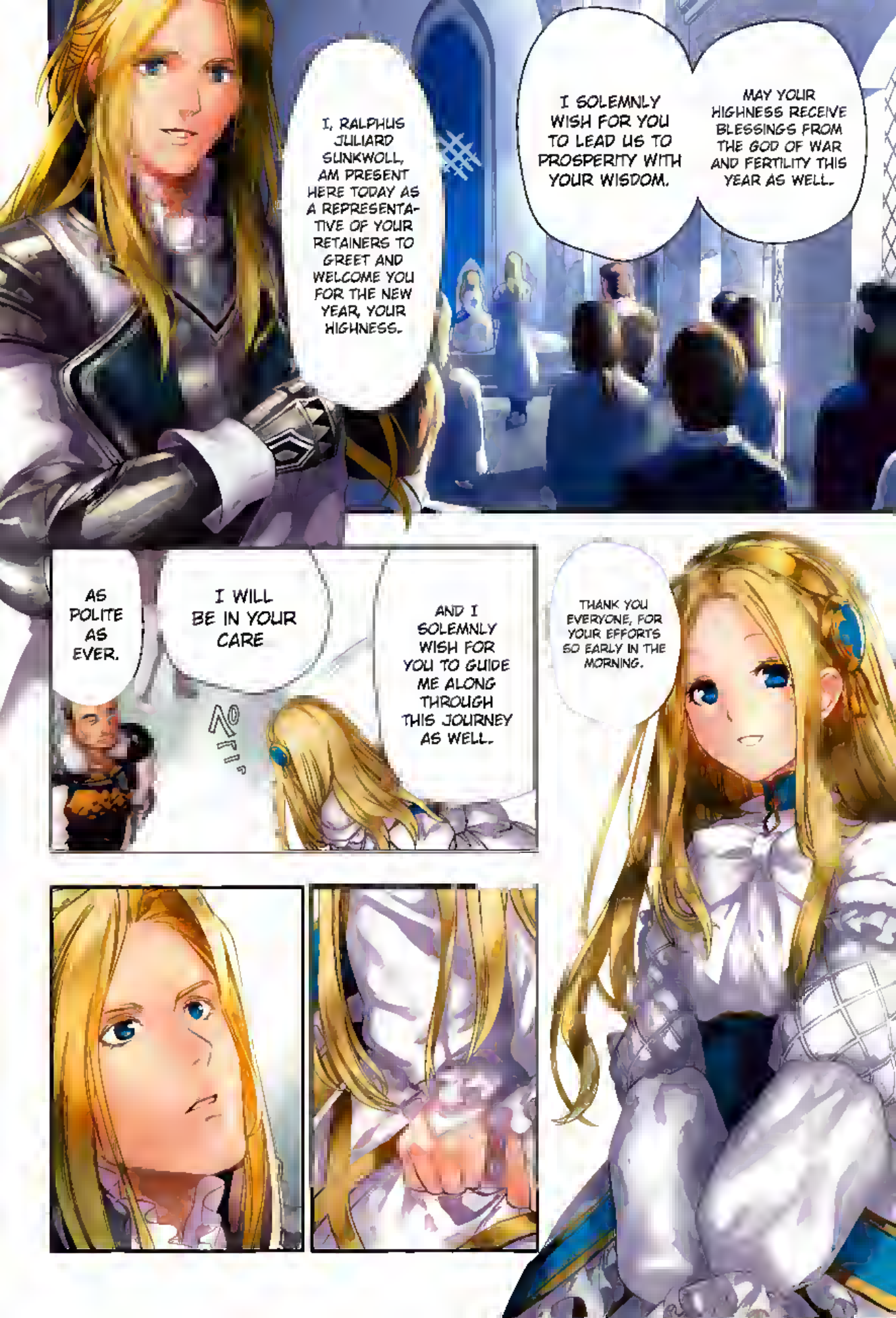
センターカラー

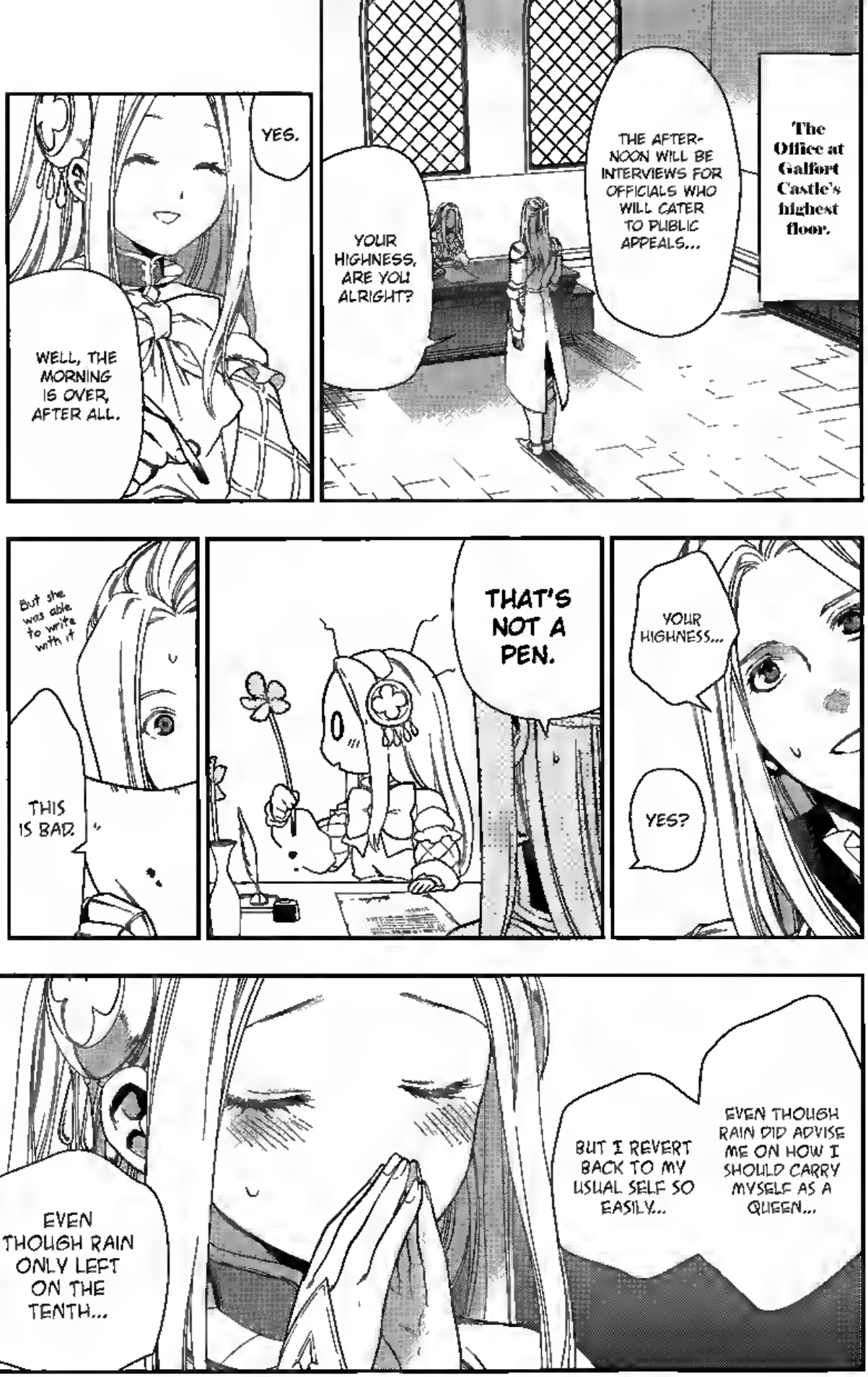
最新単行本第5巻
4月10日発売!!

すみっこの空さん
たなかのか

A single swordsman saved this small country from peril after losing its king during the battle with the large nation of Zarmin.
Sunkwoll, located at the southern tip of the great continent of Murgenia.
and quelled a civil war.
The country allied with its neighboring country...
After successfully fending off King Reygal's assault...
The enthronement of sixteen year old princess Shelfa Ayras Sunkwoll was held before the twentieth day of that month.

CHAPTER 41: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OBSCURE AND ABANDONED MINE, (PART 1)

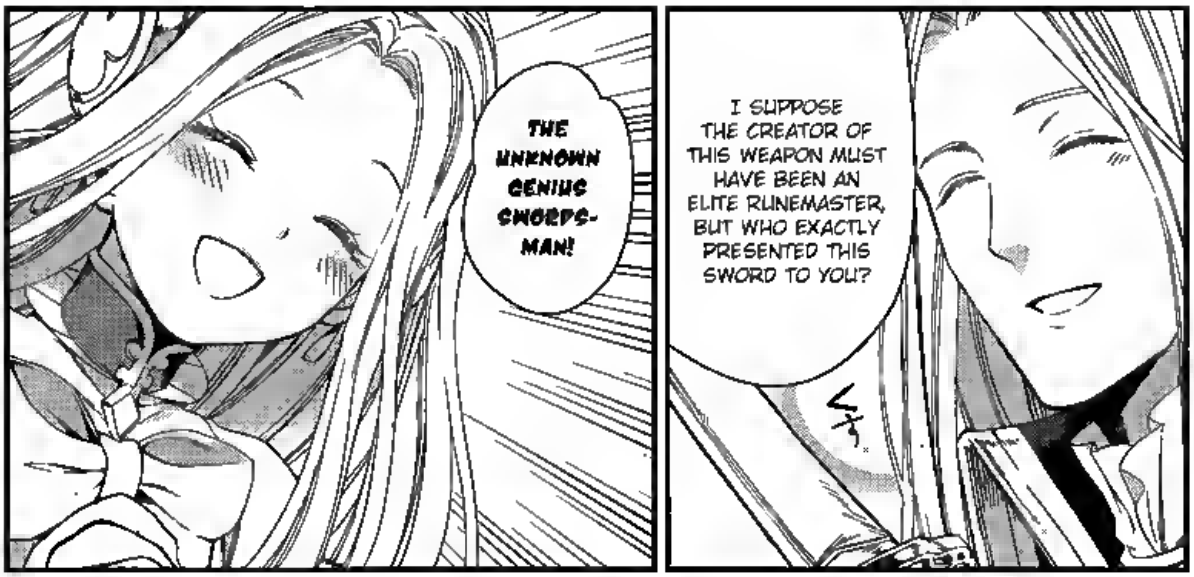

I, RALPHUS JULIARD SUNKWOLL, AM PRESENT HERE TODAY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR RETAINERS TO GREET AND WELCOME YOU FOR THE NEW YEAR, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I SOLEMNLY WISH FOR YOU TO LEAD US TO PROSPERITY WITH YOUR WISDOM.
MAY YOUR HIGHNESS RECEIVE BLESSINGS FROM THE GOD OF WAR AND FERTILITY THIS YEAR AS WELL.
AS POLITE AS EVER.
I WILL BE IN YOUR CARE
AND I SOLEMNLY WISH FOR YOU TO GUIDE ME ALONG THROUGH THIS JOURNEY AS WELL.
THANK YOU EVERYONE, FOR YOUR EFFORTS SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.


The Office at Galfort Castle's highest floor.
YOUR HIGHNESS, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
THE AFTER-NOON WILL BE INTERVIEWS FOR OFFICIALS WHO WILL CATER TO PUBLIC APPEALS...
YES.
WELL, THE MORNING IS OVER, AFTER ALL.
But she was able to write with it
THIS IS BAD.
THAT'S NOT A PEN.
YOUR HIGHNESS...
YES?
EVEN THOUGH RAIN ONLY LEFT ON THE TENTH...
BUT I REVERT BACK TO MY USUAL SELF SO EASILY...
EVEN THOUGH RAIN DID ADVISE ME ON HOW I SHOULD CARRY MYSELF AS A QUEEN...

マンガ魂、縦横無尽。
毎月30日発売!! BLADE
EVERY GOOD ON SALE!

HE'S ONLY AWAY TO DEAL WITH MATTERS BACK IN HIS CASTLE AND AT THE SAME TIME, EXTERMINATE MAGICAL BEASTS IN THE VICINITY, SO HE WILL BE BACK SOON ENOUGH.

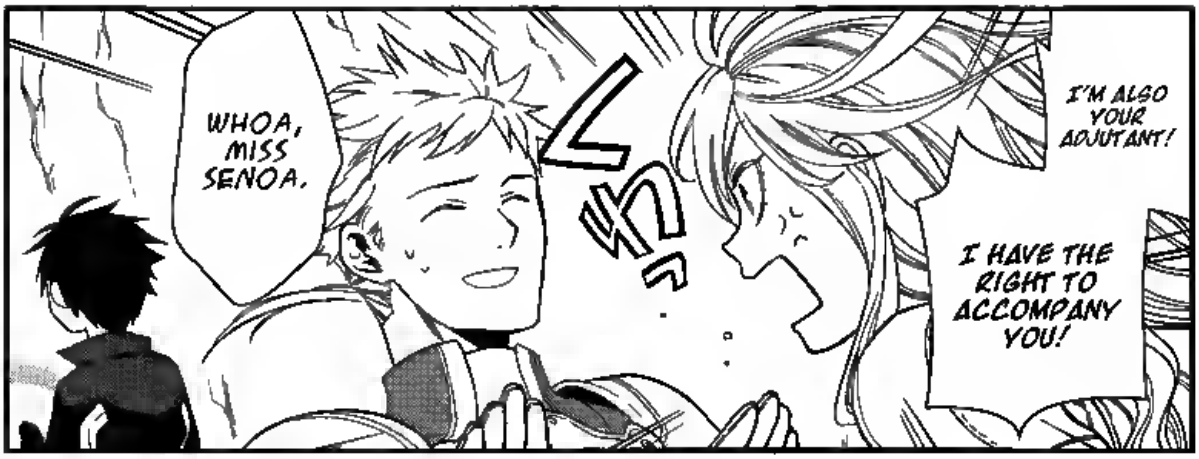
It can actually withstand King Reygul's treasured blade.
THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVELY SHARP SWORD.
THE FEATURES OF A DEMON SWORD ARE BARELY PRESENT, BUT GIVEN ITS STRENGTH, I WOULD SAY THAT IT'S COMPAHABLE WITH HIS COURTESAN'S BLADE.


THE UNKNOWN GENIUS SWORDS-MAN!
I SUPPOSE THE CREATOR OF THIS WEAPON MUST HAVE BEEN AN ELITE RUNEMASTER, BUT WHO EXACTLY PRESENTED THIS SWORD TO YOU?

GENERAL RAIN!

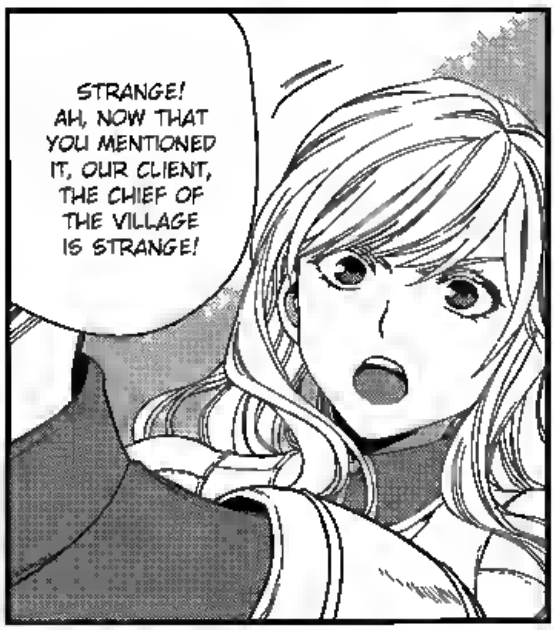
A day's ride away from the capital city, Lydia, near Tymart village.
At the heart of Forest Yarloin.

WAAAAAH
THIS IS THE JOB OF THE GUARDS.
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK.
QUICKLY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
ISN'T THIS SORT OF MISSION THE LONG-CHERISHED DESIRE OF A KNIGHT!
LENI.
WE CAME BECAUSE THE GUARDS FAILED AT THEIR JOB, SO DROP THE IDEA.
SENOA.
I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU HERE.
GO BACK.

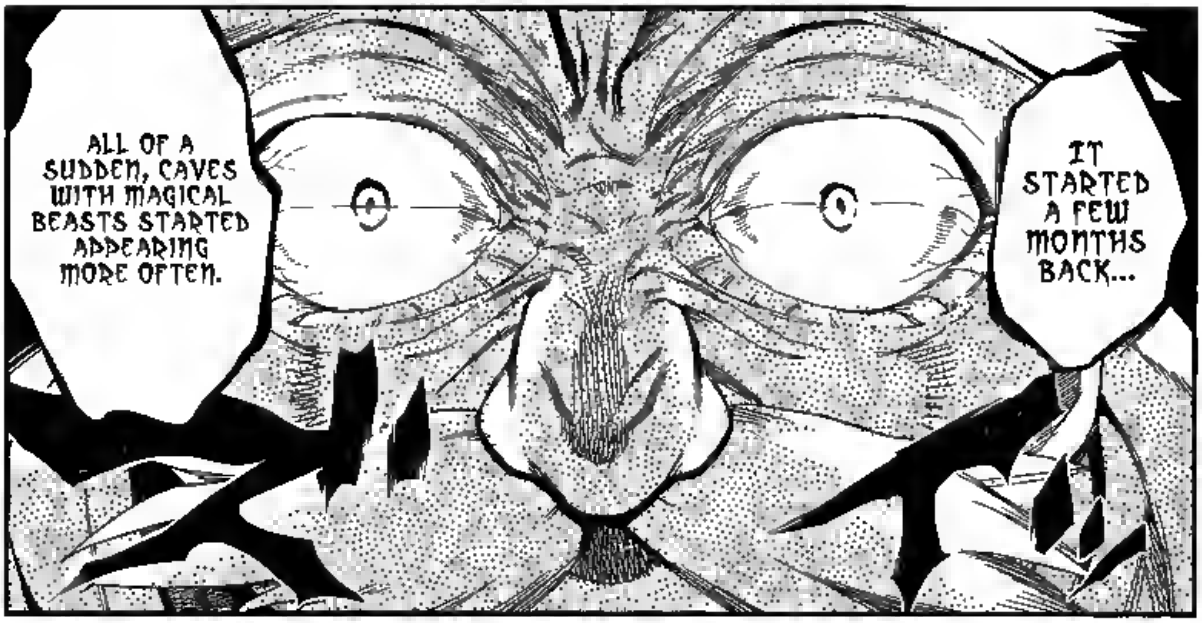

WHOA, MISS SENOA.
I'M ALSO YOUR ADJUTANT!
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACCOMPANY YOU!

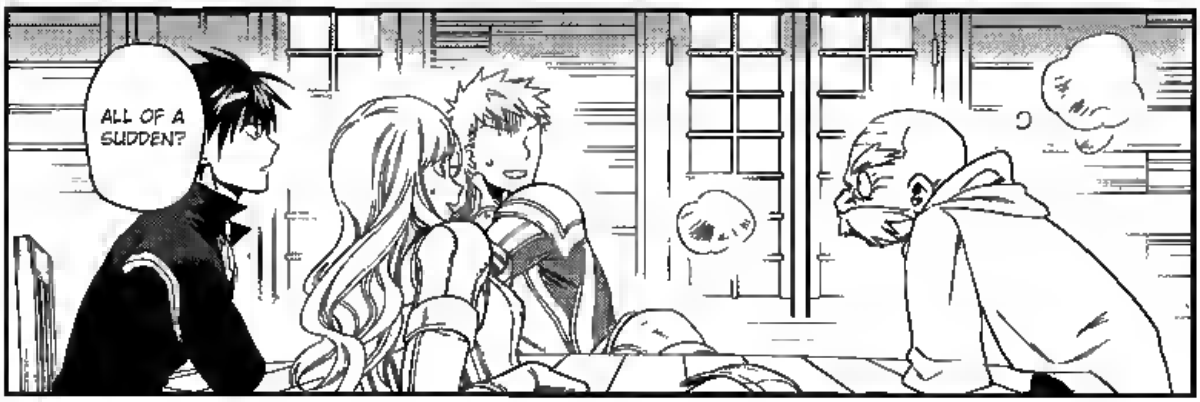
IT'S NO USE

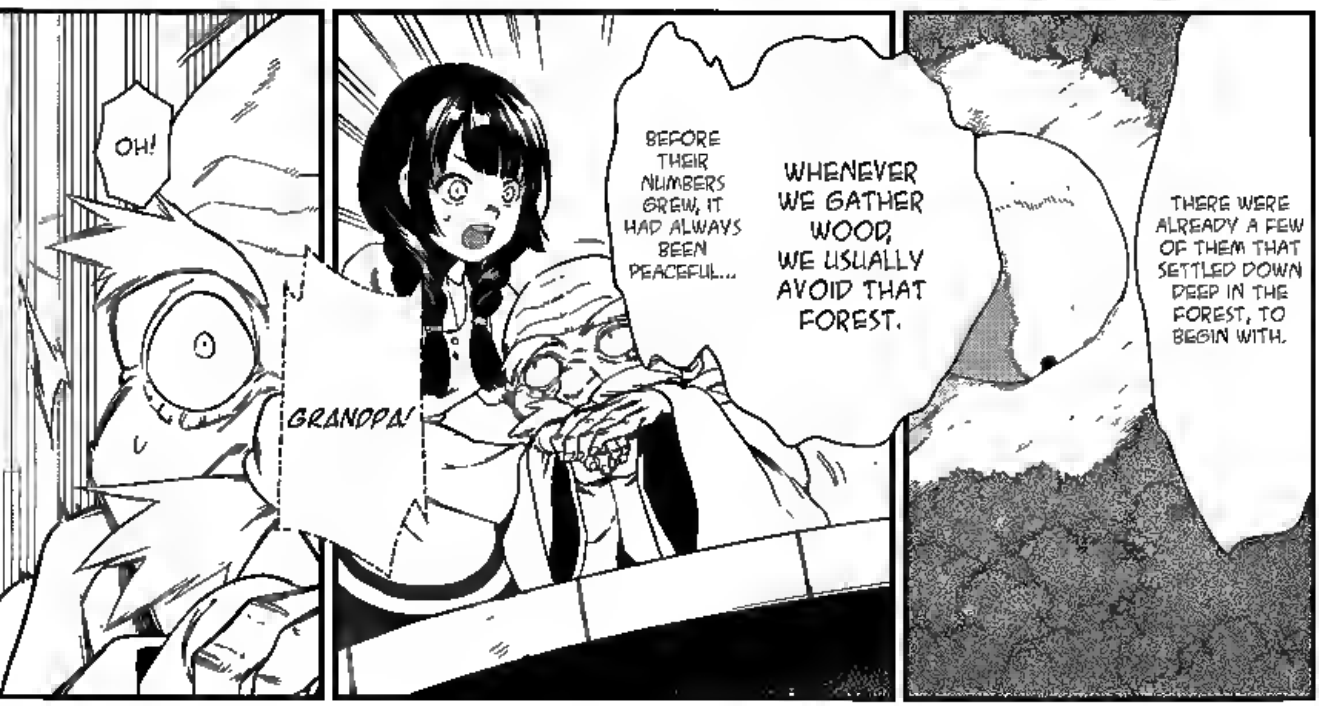
EXCEED.
WITH THAT EX-SOME-THING?
WILL WE BE ABLE TO SEE THE CONDITION INSIDE?


STRANGE! AH, NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT, OUR CLIENT, THE CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE IS STRANGE!

STRANGELY, IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING IS INTERFERING.
I CAN'T GET A LOOK ON THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OR THE MONSTERS LOCATION WITHIN THE MINE


IT STARTED A FEW MONTHS BACK...
ALL OF A SUDDEN, CAVES WITH MAGICAL BEASTS STARTED APPEARING MORE OFTEN.

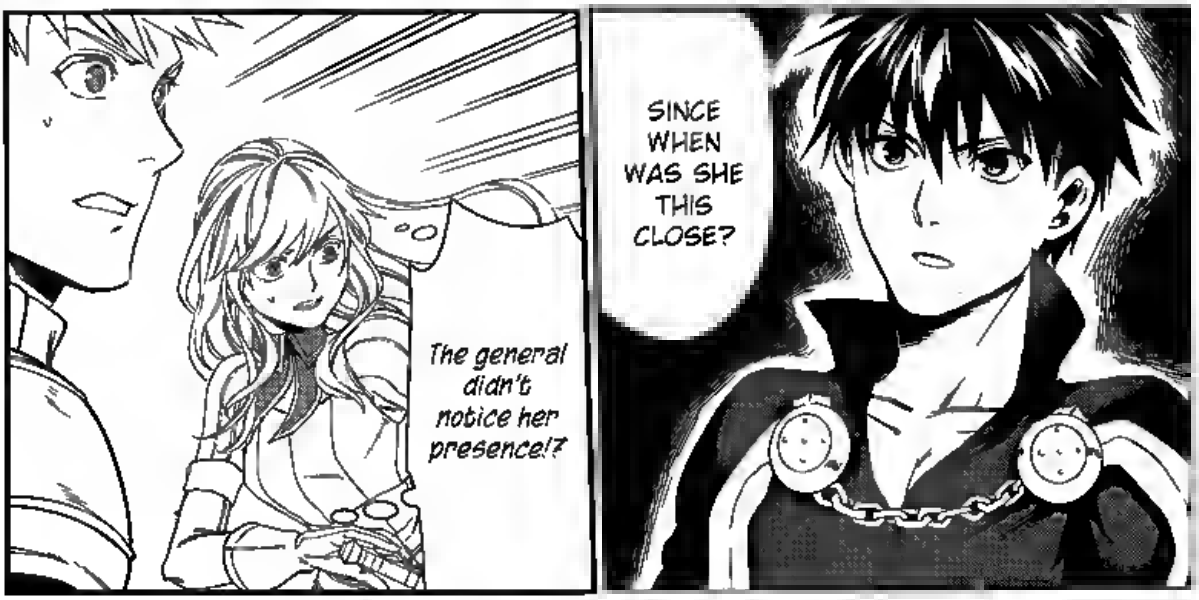

ALL OF A SUDDEN?


THERE WERE ALREADY A FEW OF THEM THAT SETTLED DOWN DEEP IN THE FOREST, TO BEGIN WITH.
WHENEVER WE GATHER WOOD, WE USUALLY AVOID THAT FOREST.
BEFORE THEIR NUMBERS GREW, IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN PEACEFUL...
GRANDPA!
OH!

WOULD YOU CLEAR THEM FOR US?
HMM...
NNNN...
PRESENTLY, THE PLACE IS TEEMING WITH SO MANY MAGICAL BEASTS THAT SOME OF THEM ACTUALLY APPEAR IN THIS VILLAGE.
IN OTHER WORDS...
OKAY.
THE CHIEF IS PROBABLY HIDING SOMETHING.
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MINE.
ISN'T THAT IN THE RUMORS?

ドガ

NICE TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME IS MELCURE.


The general didn't notice her presence!?
SINCE WHEN WAS SHE THIS CLOSE?

IT'S HARD TO NOTICE MY PRESENCE WHEN MONSTERS WITH KILLING INTENT SURROUND YOU.
I HAVE JUST ARRIVED.
I WANT TO STOP YOU FROM ENTERING THE MINE.
AND THE REASON IS THAT PARTICULAR RUMOR?
YES.
PEOPLE DISAPPEAR IN THIS MINE.
THEY WILL JUST SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR, WITHOUT ANY TRACES OF THEIR BONES, CLOTHES OR BLOOD LEFT.

WAS THE FIRST INCIDENT AROUND FIVE YEARS AGO?
NOTHING
SPIRITED AWAY?
AS IF THEY ARE SPIRITED AWAY.
IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY DISAPPEARED BECAUSE OF A CAVE-IN INCIDENT.
AND THE REASON FOR CLOSURE WAS THAT THE MINE HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED OF ORES.
FIRST, IT WAS JUST ONE PERSON.
THE FOLLOWING DAY, IT WAS TWO.
THE EXACT SAME PERIOD AS THE CLOSURE OF THE MINE.
VERY INFOR-MATIVE.
A RELATIVE OF MINE LIVES IN TYNART.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FROM THIS VILLAGE, YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.

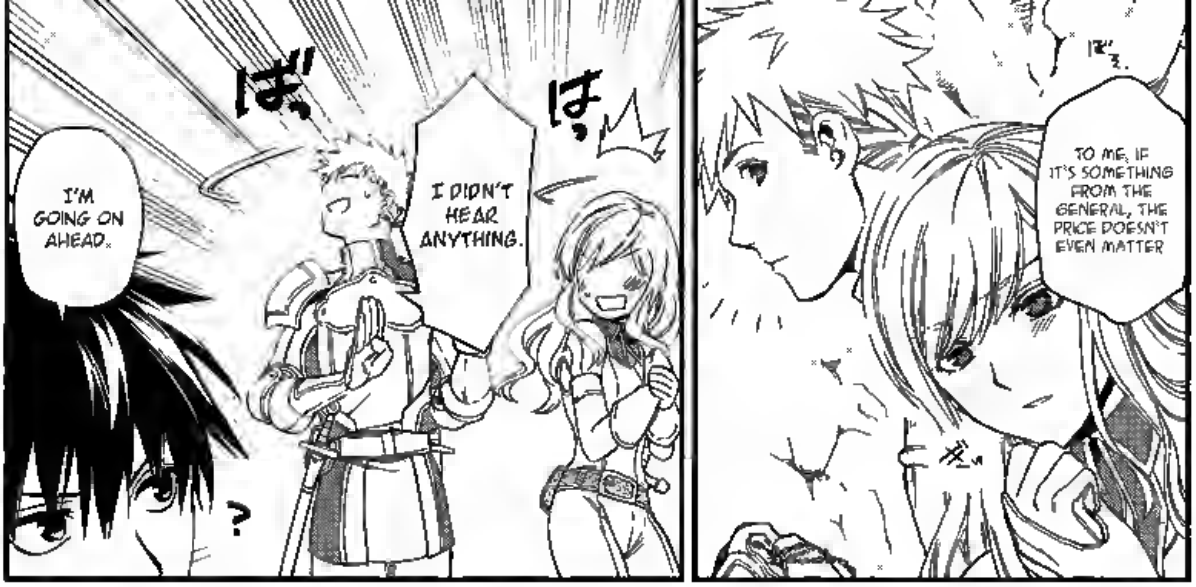
I APPRECIATE THE WARNING, BUT WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO RETREAT NOW
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE RUMORS SO THAT YOU WON'T ENTER THE CAVE.
WHEN I COME OVER TO PLAY SOMETIMES, I ALSO TAKE THE ROLE OF A GUIDE TO THESE CAVES.
YOU'RE THE ONE WE ARE MORE WORRIED ABOUT!
CAN YOU GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE ALONE?
THERE ARE DANGEROUS MONSTERS OUT THERE IN THE FOREST!
I SEE.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
IT'S FINE. I'M A GUY AFTER ALL.
A GUY!?
THANK YOU MISS.
MISS?

I'M AN ALLY OF JUSTICE.
WHAT'S MORE...

HE IS A GUIDE, RIGHT? IF HE DOESN'T KNOW THE LOCATIONS OF THE MONSTERS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FULFILL HIS ROLE.
IT'S FINE.

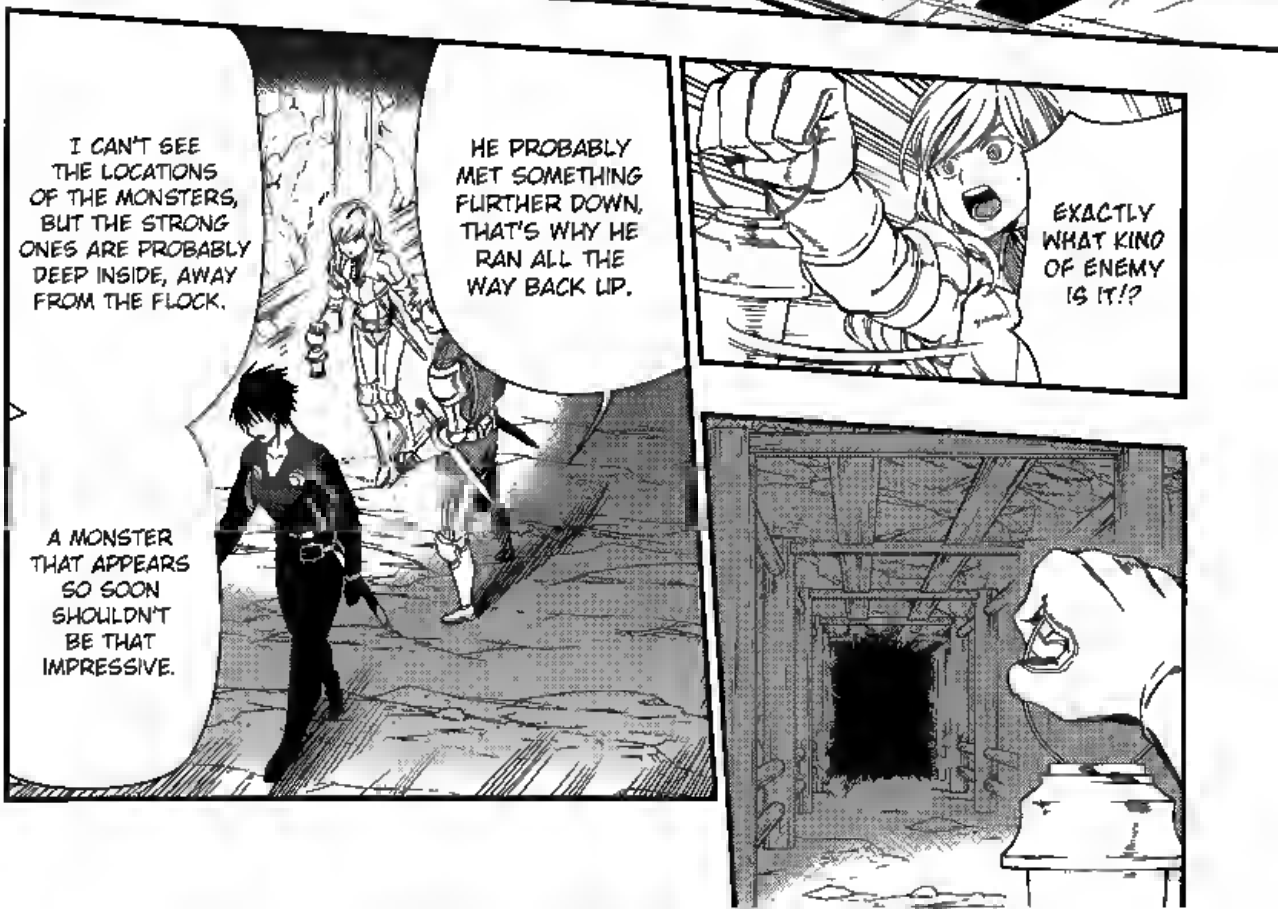
I WONDER IF MELCURE WILL BE OKAY BY HIMSELF

AND HERE.
HERE.
WHO ARE YOU GIVING IT TO?
チャラ…
A toy?
?
IT LOOKS PRETTY CHEAP.
I have to stop him, but I don't know how to!
But if it's her, she'll definitely be happy!
This is way too cheap to be given to the queen of the country!!
THE PRIN-CESS.


I'M GOING ON AHEAD.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
TO ME, IF IT'S SOMETHING FROM THE GENERAL, THE PRICE DOESN'T EVEN MATTER

WE'VE BEEN WALKING QUITE A WHILE NOW, BUT NOTHING HAS SHOWN UP SO FAR.
EVEN THOUGH WE COULD HEAR THE MONSTERS FROM OUTSIDE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
!?
ドドドドド

A MER-CENARY?
PRETTY OLD, ISN'T HE?
Nice armour.
HE WAS CRYING REALLY BADLY!?


I CAN'T SEE THE LOCATIONS OF THE MONSTERS, BUT THE STRONG ONES ARE PROBABLY DEEP INSIDE, AWAY FROM THE FLOCK.
HE PROBABLY MET SOMETHING FURTHER DOWN. THAT'S WHY HE RAN ALL THE WAY BACK UP.
A MONSTER THAT APPEARS SO SOON SHOULDN'T BE THAT IMPRESSIVE.
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF ENEMY IS IT!?

IF THE STRONG ONES WERE TO APPEAR...
IT WOULD BE AT THE BOTTOM, WOULDN'T IT?

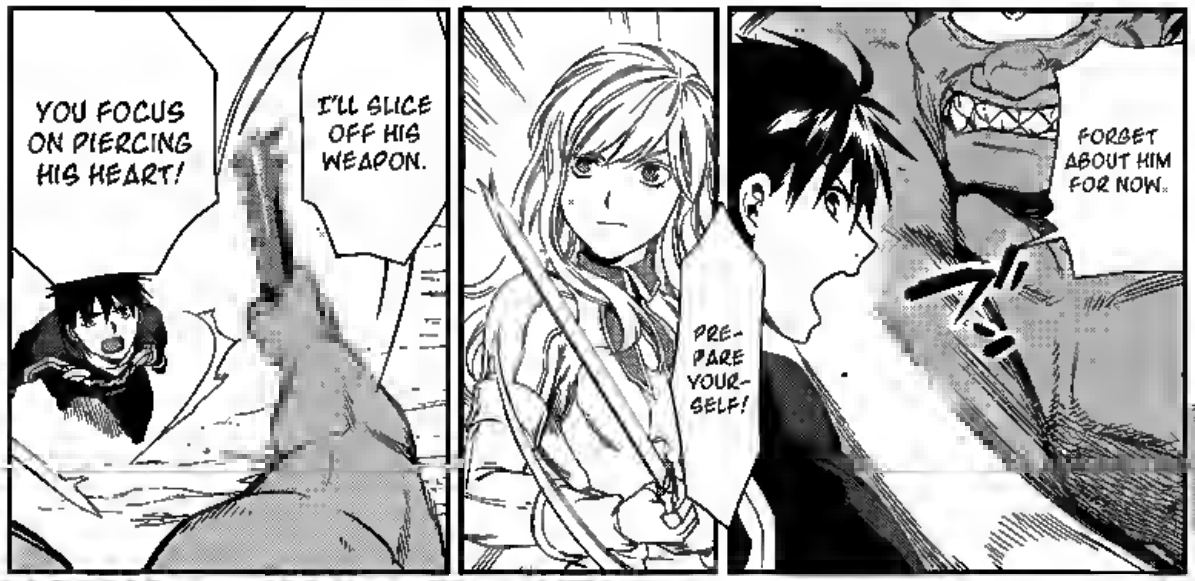
ポツ
あ
ビクッ
ヒャーン
ドドドド
あああ
THAT KIND OF...?
THIS IS THAT KIND OF PLACE AFTER ALL.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT IF YOU FEEL AFRAID.

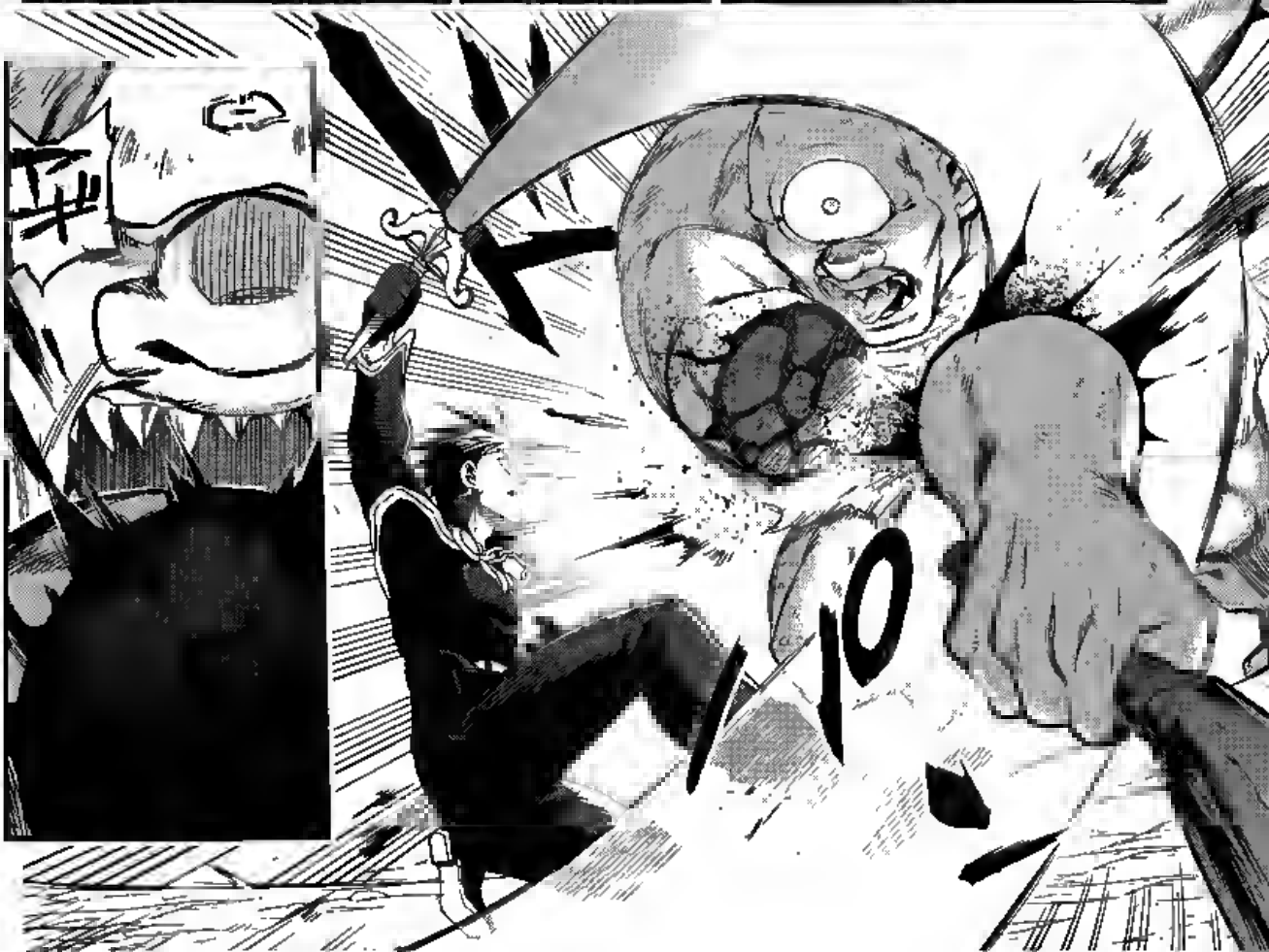
ズドキュ
THAT KIND OF PLACE...
ああああああ

Even though he's tone-deaf.
So that he would calm our fears...
ANOTHER MERCENARY?
OH, ANOTHER ONE.
NO.

A CY-
CLOPS.
キョロ…

SENOA!
LORD LENI!?
I'll leave the rest to you


YOU FOCUS ON PIERCING HIS HEART!
I'LL SLICE OFF HIS WEAPON.
PRE-PARE YOUR-SELF!
FORGET ABOUT HIM FOR NOW.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FINISH HIM!
NOW!!

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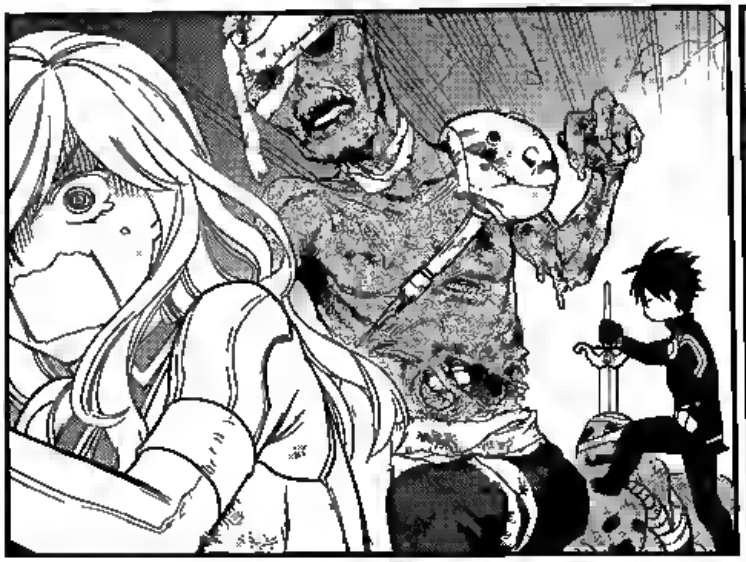
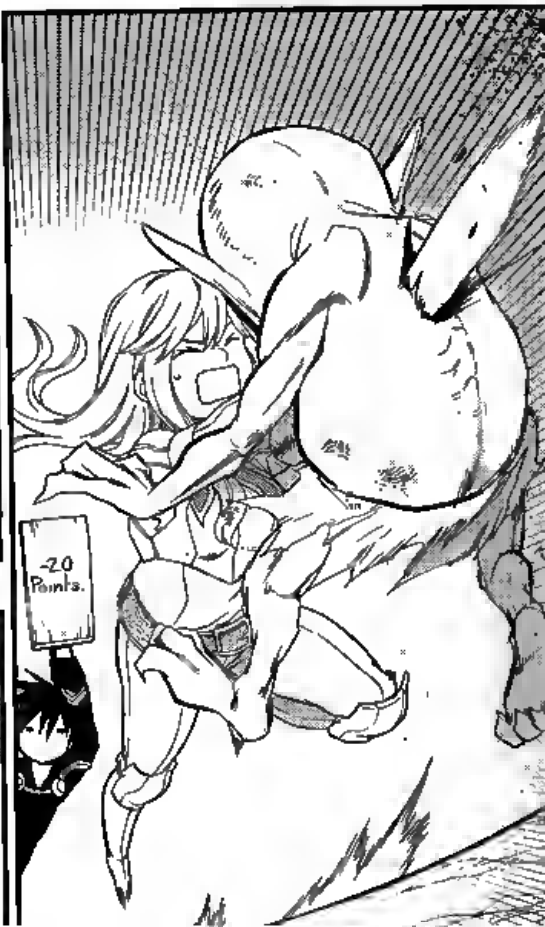
WE WON?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME... AGAINST A MAGICAL BEAST...
ゴバッ
ズサササ
ぴっ
ぼちゃ
IF YOU MISS THE VITAL SPOT, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY WAY OF FIGHTING BACK. THAT WILL BE YOUR LOSS.
DON'T LET GO OF YOUR WEAPON BECAUSE OF SOME SPIT.
I'M SORRY.
みしっ
-50 POINTS.

HERE.
THANK YOU.
YES, SIR!
IF YOU PLAN ON FOLLOWING US UNTIL THE END, PREPARE YOURSELF.
LORD LENI! YOU WERE HIDING THE ENTIRE TIME, WEREN'T YOU?
SENOA.
DON'T MIND HIM. THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN SAFETY FIRST.
ズガガ

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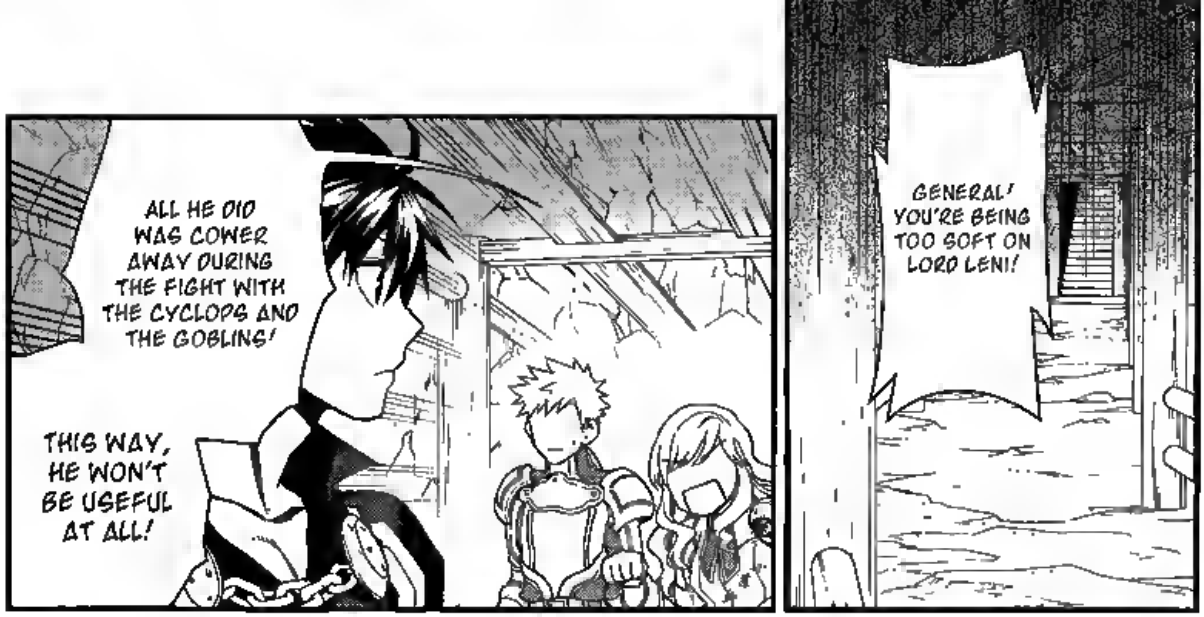
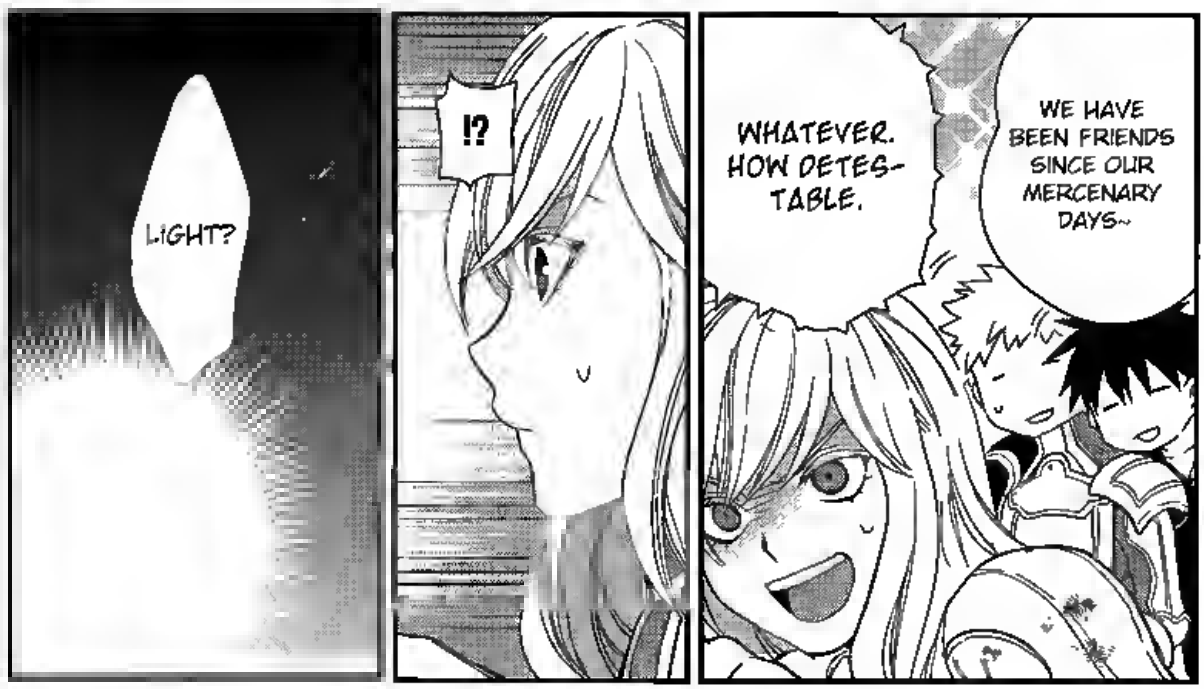
Points.

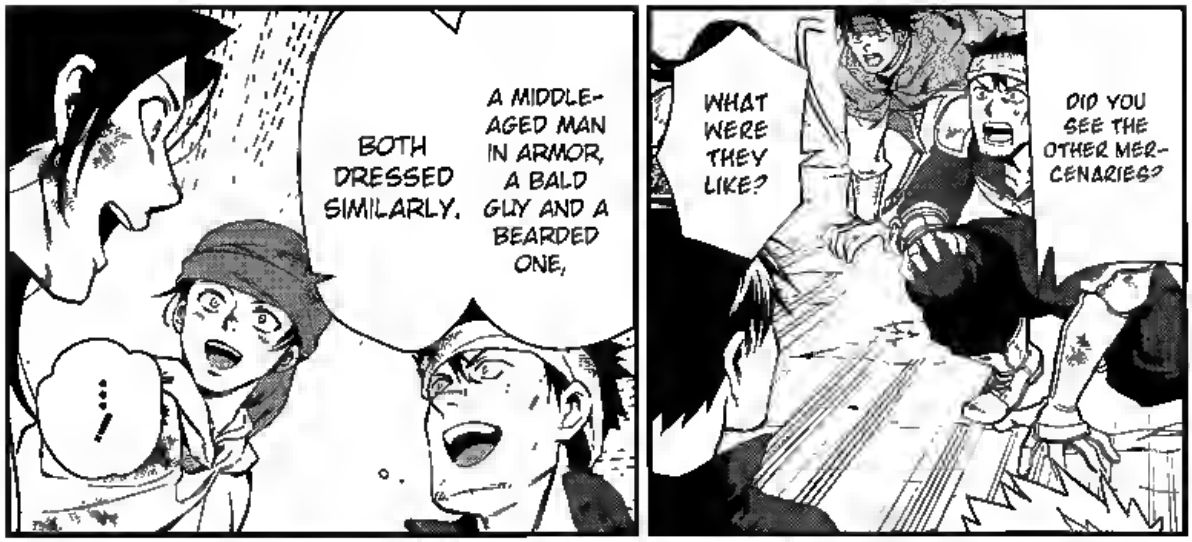

ALL HE DID WAS COWER AWAY DURING THE FIGHT WITH THE CYCLOPS AND THE GOBLINS!
THIS WAY, HE WON'T BE USEFUL AT ALL!
GENERAL! YOU'RE BEING TOO SOFT ON LORD LENI!

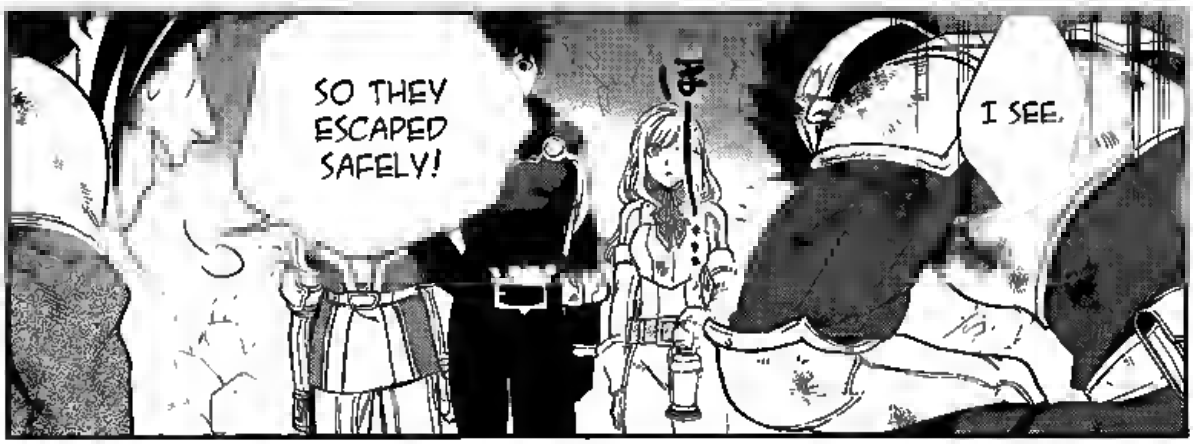
GENE-RAL...
THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND LENI.


LIGHT?
!?
WHATEVER. HOW DETES-TABLE.
WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE OUR MERCENARY DAYS~

MERCE-
NARIES?
V-
YEAH...
ARE YOU BEAST
EXTERMINATORS
AS WELL?
THE TWO
OF YOU AT
THE BACK
THAT
BLONDE
HAIR AND
BLUE
EYES
HE
DIDN'T
TRUST
US, DID
HE?
THAT
CHIEF EVEN
HIRED THE
MERCENARY
GUILDS FOR
THIS.

YOU'RE SUNKWOLL NOBLES, AREN'T YOU?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANGE IT HONESTLY.
CONSIDERING THE IMPRESSION THEY HAVE ON THE POLITICS OF THE NOBLES UP TILL RECENTLY, IT'S AN UNDERSTANDABLE REACTION.
MORE IMPORTANTLY IS THIS ALL THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE?
NO, I DON'T RECALL.


DID YOU SEE THE OTHER MERCENARIES?
WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?
A MIDDLE-AGED MAN IN ARMOR, A BALD GUY AND A BEARDED ONE,
BOTH DRESSED SIMILARLY.
!


I SEE.
ほー
SO THEY ESCAPED SAFELY!

HEY, WHY DO YOU LOOK SO AFRAID?
HOW DID A GROUP OF SEVEN GET THE TABLES TURNED ON THEM?

THAT LITTLE DRAGON!
IT JUST BREATHED FIRE ON US!
W...WE DIDN'T TRY TO CHALLENGE IT!
LITTLE DRAGON?
GENERAL! PLEASE WATCH YOUR WORDS!
HUH. THAT'S THE WEAKEST OF ITS SPECIES.

WE ONLY TRIED TALKING TO IT.
WE DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH IT...
YOU REALLY DIDN'T BOTHER IT?
SO WE THOUGHT OF MAKING DEALS WITH SOME OTHERS.
WE WERE A LITTLE AFRAID OF THE NUMBER OF MAGICAL BEASTS.
COMPEN-SATION.
ABOUT?
?
?
The dragon?
BY THE WAY
IT WAS PLANNING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE DISTURBANCE, HUH.
I SEE. SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD GET ITS SUPPORT.

!?
WHERE'S LENI?
People disappear...
In this mine.
LO...
LORD LENI! WHERE ARE YOU!
I DID SEE HIM APPROACH A TUNNEL, BUT...
HEY, LENI!

レニー
レニー
I'm only
what I
can do...
SINCE WHEN DID HE...
HE'S NOT HERE EITHER!
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING!?
I'VE ALREADY CLEARED THE PATH UP TO HERE.
ALL OF YOU. GO BACK TO THE SURFACE!
AHEAD IS...

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I KNOW VERY WELL HOW TO HANDLE A DRAGON.
I RE-MEMBER NOW.
BLACK HAIR, BLACK EYES AND COVERED ENTIRELY IN BLACK.
THE LEGENDARY MERCENARY.
THE UNKNOWN GENIUS SWORDS-MAN!

I WAS GLAD THAT THE ONE WHO WENT MISSING WAS LEN! INSTEAD.
I KNOW I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN FIGHTING MAGICAL BEASTS.
AND I KNOW VERY WELL HOW GOOD HE IS WITH HIS SWORD.
HOWEVER, THE WAY HE IS RIGHT NOW IS JUST...
YOU THINK I'M CASTING PEARLS BEFORE THE SWINE?
IT'S NOT AS IF I DISLIKE HIM OR ANYTHING...
HE'S ALWAYS CRYING AND COWERING IN BATTLES.
ONLY WHEN HE GETS CORNERED WILL HE FIGHT OUT OF DESPAIR..
HIS SKILLS WILL NOT COMPENSATE FOR SUCH COWARDICE.
BEING "WEAK" AND "COWARDLY" ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

WELL, IT'S PARTIALLY BECAUSE I'M HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?
OUR GUEST OF HONOR HAS ARRIVED.
WE'LL TALK LATER

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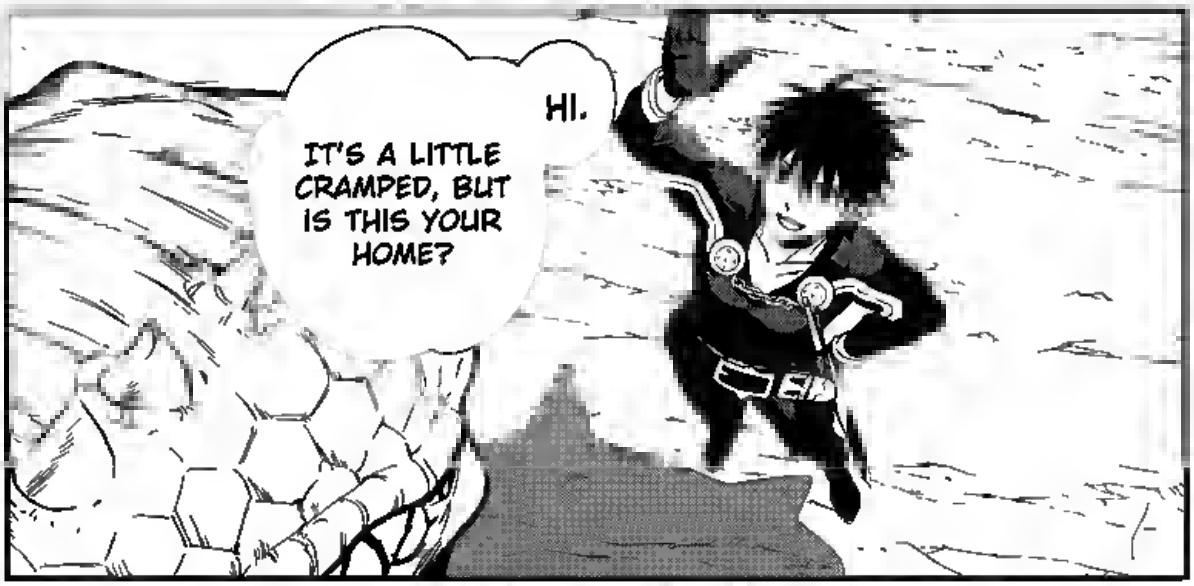
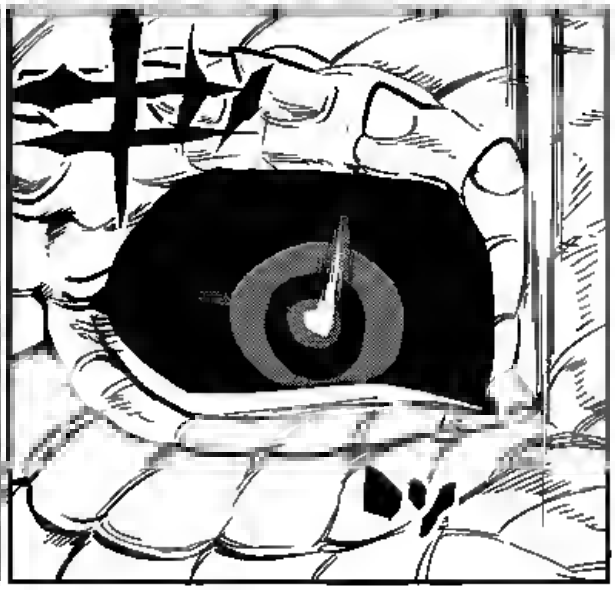
ビリ

SENOA
DON'T LEAVE THAT BARRIER.
へな…
ウ!!

As if I have the right to talk about Lord Leni in such a self-righteous


HI.
IT'S A LITTLE CRAMPED, BUT IS THIS YOUR HOME?



I CAN'T USE EXCEED HERE EITHER, BUT...
I CAN FEEL TRACES OF MAGICAL POWERS.
ドズドゴ
ドゴ

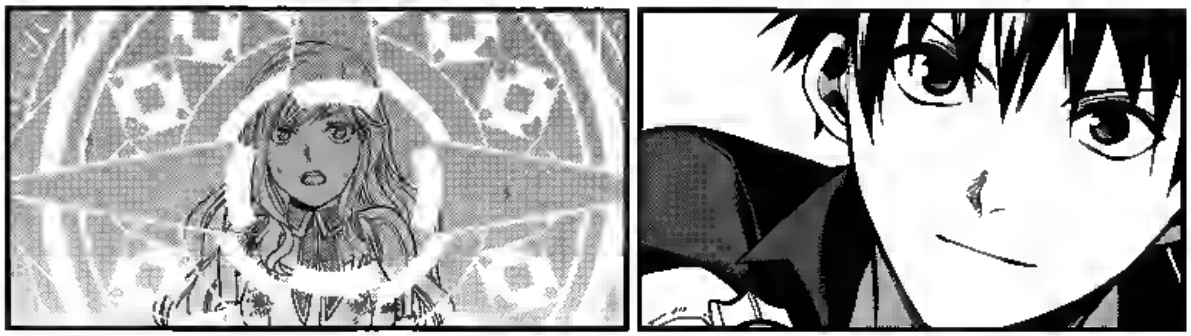
AND IT'S DEFINITELY NOT YOURS
IT'S EXCEPTIONALLY THICK HERE

WHO SUMMONED YOU HERE?
Summoned?
The increase in the number of magical beasts was a person's doing!?
WHAT A TROUBLESOME MASTER YOU HAVE THERE. YOU MUST BE IN A PRETTY TIGHT SPOT.
EVEN THOUGH HE GATHERED SO MANY PEOPLE HERE, HE MADE YOU AVOID DISTURBANCES AND GO EASY ON THE PEOPLE.

GENE...
RAL!!!
That's it.

FOR A MOMENT, I LOST MY SENSE OF REALITY AND FORGOT...
As long as he has the Anti-Dragon shield
No magic will ever reach him.

A long time ago, he killed a dragon... and obtained its power.
THE LEGENDARY DRAGON SLAYER!
IF YOU REALLY ARE A MEMBER OF THE DRAKE FAMILY, DISCERN RIGHT FROM WRONG!



ズ"
ズ"

THAT'S IT.
IF YOU KEEP IT DOWN, I'LL HELP YOU OUT.

ビキ
ビキ
ビキ

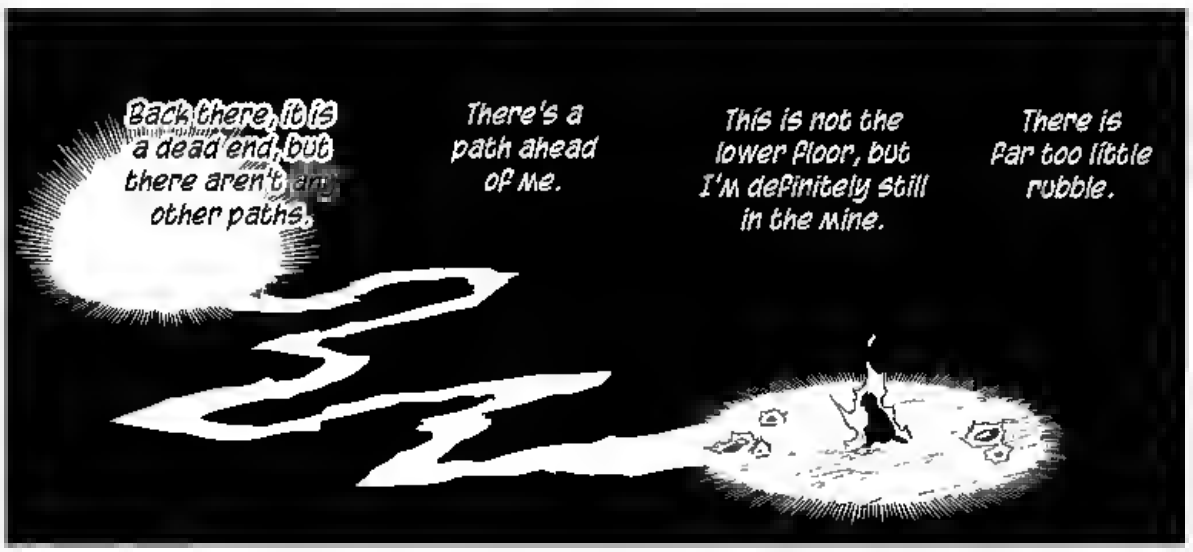
No...
This is...
STAY BACK! I'M GOING TO JUMP OVER RIGHT NOW!
A CAVE-IN!?
!?
I'm the one who's disap-pearing!!

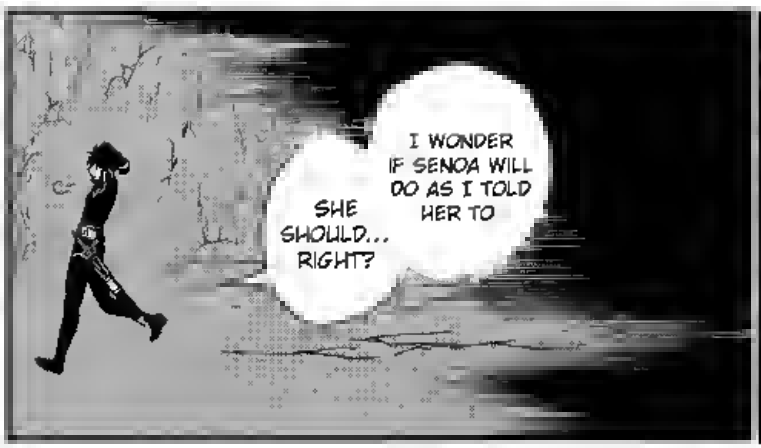
GET BACK TO THE SURFACE!
LEAVE LENI TO ME!
I'LL BE GOING TO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE...

GENE-
RAL...
GENE-
RAL
RAIN!!

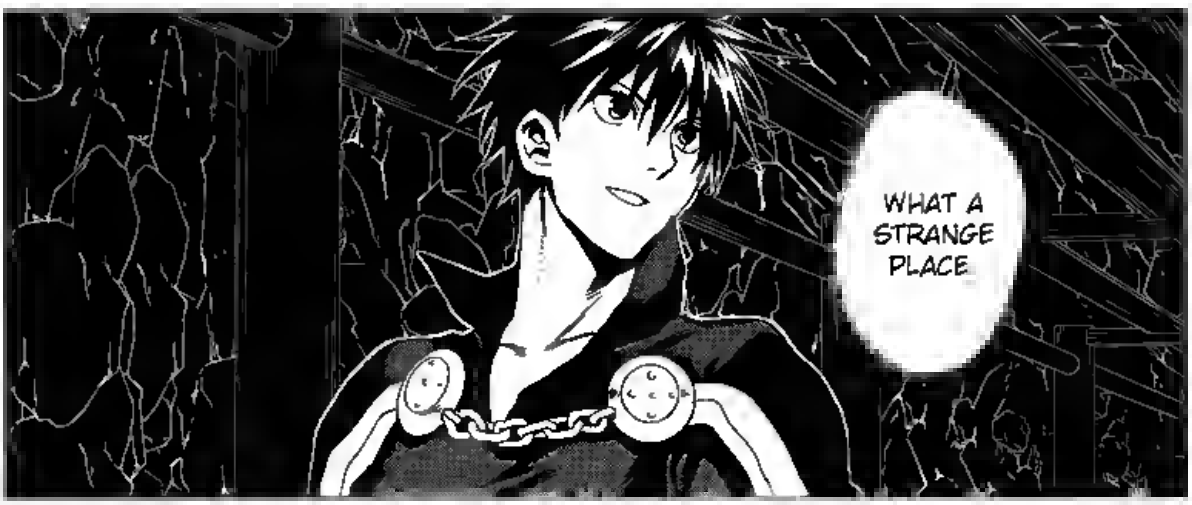
I can use Exceed!

There's no sign of the little dragon as well
It doesn't look like the lower floors of the mine


Back there, it is a dead end, but there aren't any other paths.
There's a path ahead of me.
This is not the lower floor, but I'm definitely still in the mine.
There is far too little rubble.


I WONDER IF SENOA WILL DO AS I TOLD HER TO
SHE SHOULD... RIGHT?

I can't see any more than that.


WHAT A STRANGE PLACE

BOTH SENOA AND LENI USUALLY BEHAVE BETTER, BUT...
THIS PLACE IS JUST WICKED.
THIS PLACE FANS THE FEAR AND DISCOMFORT OF THE HUMAN HEART

UNFORTU-
NATELY
THAT PART OF ME HAS LONG BEEN DEAD.
WELL, AT LEAST THE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS.
ゆら…
……
BUT THIS PRESENCE THAT I FELT IN THE OPEN SPACE JUST NOW...

WELL THIS LOOKS TOUGH
FANCY MEETING YOU IN SUCH A PLACE
YO!

REYGUL.
THE ONE HE MEETS IN THE STRANGE ABANDONED
MINE IS HIS BITTER ENEMY, KING REYGUL...!
monthly comic
BLADE 3
1/30発売
月号へ続く

RAIN

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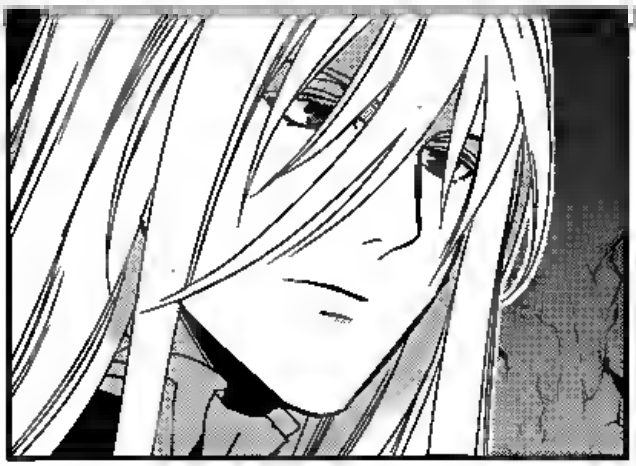
WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT PERSON WHO'S BUSY WITH WORLD CONQUEST SUCH AS THE KING OF ZARMIN DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

CHAPTER 42: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GLOOMY ABANDONED MINE! (SECOND PART)

A confrontation between the two ...!

マンガ魂、縦横無尽。
毎月30日発売!! BLADE
EVERY 30th ON SALE!



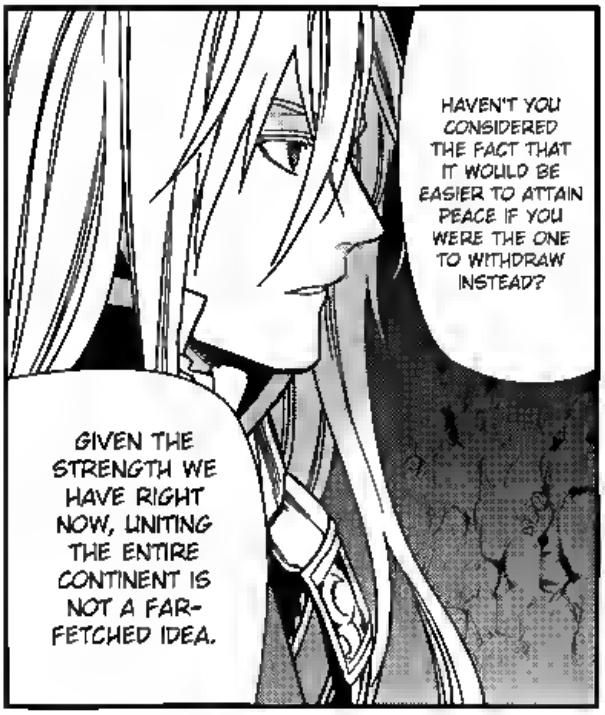
STORY

遥か彼方に存在する地・ミュールゲニア…。剣と魔法が支配するその世界の中でも、比類無き力を持つ騎士がひとり。全身を黒衣で覆い、国を傾ける力すら持つ剣を手に大国と渡り合う、その男の名はレインと言った…。彼を待ち受ける、運命とは…。

THE NOBLES OF NOW AND THEN ARE DIFFERENT. RALPHUS IS STRONG, YOU KNOW.
I WONDER.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, EVEN BEFORE ZARMIN'S ASSAULT, SUNKWOLL WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY LUNAN.
YOU'VE CHANGED THE FATE OF SUNKWOLL MANY TIMES OVER
EVEN SO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FATED FOR DESTRUCTION.
IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU'RE REGRETTING IT
BUT THE MAIN POINT IS THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO GRASP WHERE THIS BATTLE IS GOING, HUH?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, THAT COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY.
THAT BEING SAID, THE SAME GOES FOR ZARMIN.

THEN IT'S SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?

WHY DON'T YOU HURRY UP AND RETIRE, WAR BUDDY?


HAVEN'T YOU CONSIDERED THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO ATTAIN PEACE IF YOU WERE THE ONE TO WITHDRAW INSTEAD?
GIVEN THE STRENGTH WE HAVE RIGHT NOW, UNITING THE ENTIRE CONTINENT IS NOT A FAR-FETCHED IDEA.

IF YOU'RE UNCERTAIN WHAT YOU SHOULD DO AFTER YOU RETIRE, WE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU OVER ON OUR SIDE!
THAT WOULD SURELY BE A JOYOUS FINALE!

I HAD NEVER PLANNED TO SUBJUGATE THE OTHER COUNTRIES WITHOUT ANY DESTRUCTION.
IF THERE WERE NO RESISTANCE, WORLD PEACE COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITH MINIMUM
RAIN.
THE REASON FOR THIS NEEDLESSLY PROLONGED BATTLE IS YOU...
A QUAR-TER?
A THIRD?
LESS THAN HALF THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE CONTINENT?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "MINIMUM"?

IT HURTS MY EARS TO HEAR THOSE THINGS BECAUSE I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THEM AT ALL
NO
YOU'RE THE ONE MAKING FUN OF ME.
TALK OF THE WORLD OR FATE OR PEACE...
IT'S PATHETIC TO FIGHT OR WITHDRAW FOR SUCH A REASON.
EVEN A CONCEITED PERSON WOULDN'T THINK OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY.
AS LONG AS THE HUMAN RACE EXISTS, THERE WILL BE NO SUCH THING AS ETERNAL PEACE.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?

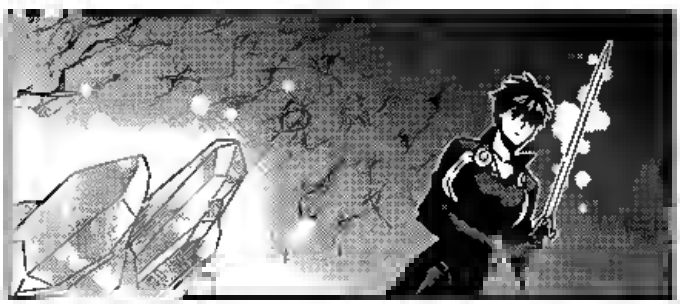
TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE I WANT TO PROTECT.
I CANNOT COMPREHEND THAT...
YOU BECAME ENEMIES WITH ALL THE SURROUNDING NATIONS...
AND YET YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR SUCH A SMALL, PERSONAL REASON?
YOU HAVE SO MUCH POWER...

I'M NOT GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD
HOWEVER, IF IT IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE I HAVE VOWED TO PROTECT, I DON'T CARE IF THE WORLD IS MY ENEMY.
I HAVE THE RESOLVE TO DO THAT
What about you?

IT'S SO UNLIKE YOU TO TALK THIS MUCH...
DON'T SPEAK YOUR OPINIONS IF YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RESOLVE TO ACT ON THEM!
AS IF I CAN TRUST A PERSON WHO USES AN ILLUSION INSTEAD OF SHOWING UP IN PERSON!
YOU TALK ABOUT WORLD PEACE? MINIMUM SACRIFICES!?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO TO HELL!

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD, DO IT YOURSELF.
IF YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE AN ALLY OF JUSTICE, THEN SAVE EVERYTHING.
KII

NOW THEN.
TIME TO FIND A WAY TO BREAK OUT OF THIS SPACE



HMM?

HMM~

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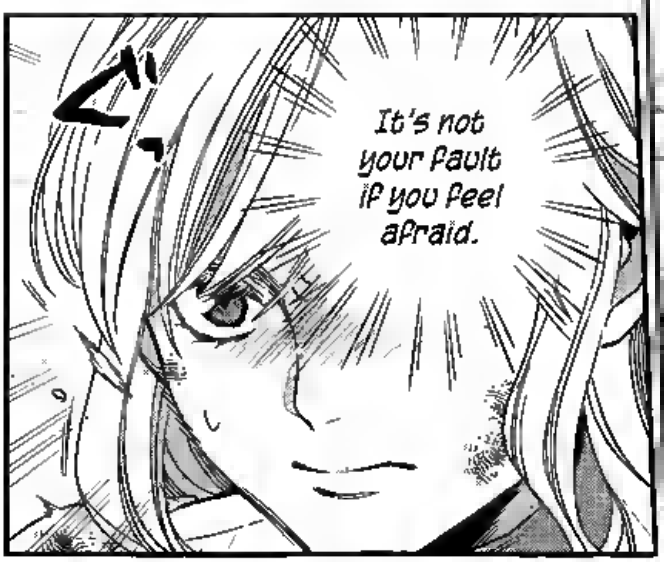
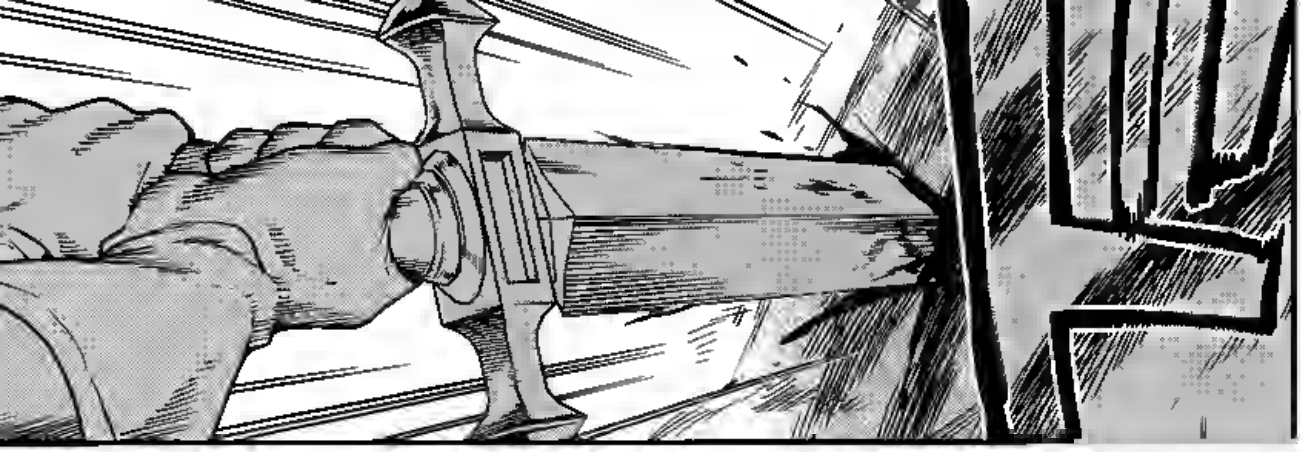
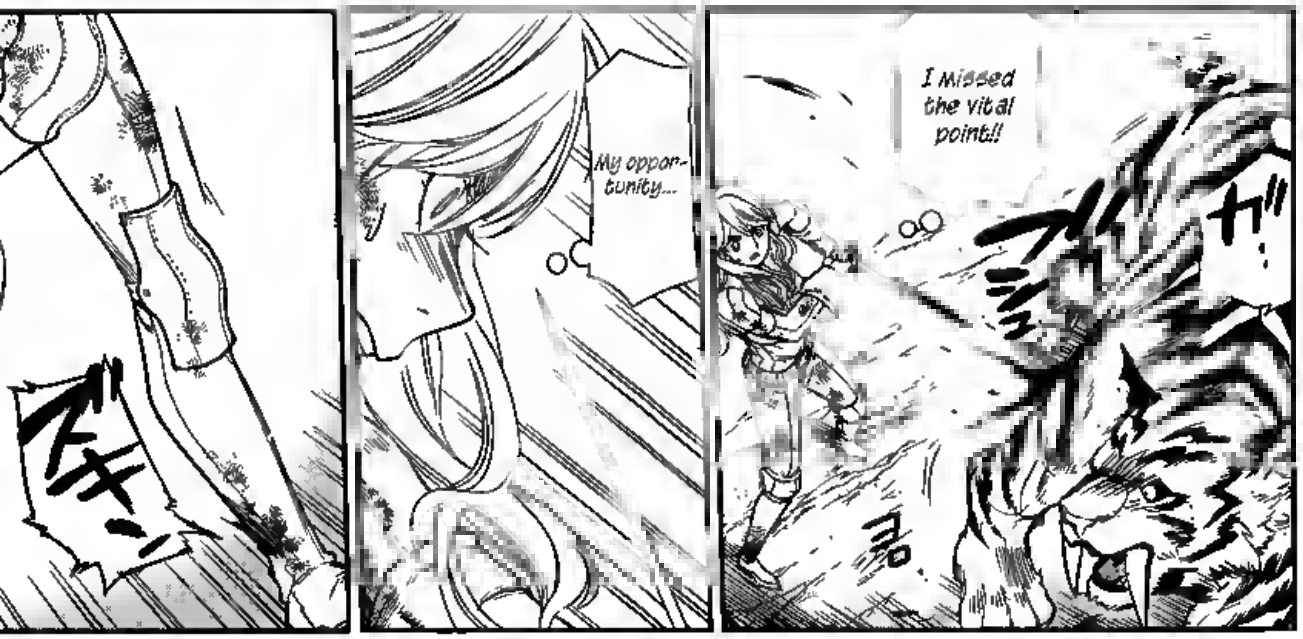
EVEN THOUGH THE GENERAL TOLD ME TO GET BACK TO THE SURFACE...


It's not your fault if you feel afraid.

I'M IGNORING HIS ORDERS.
EXCEL-LENT!

Their hands, feet and claws are different from human beings, so be cautious of their range.
Your weapon is part of you.
ゴクッ
Only aim for the heart.




My opportunity...
I missed the vital point!!

AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
LE...
AAA
AA
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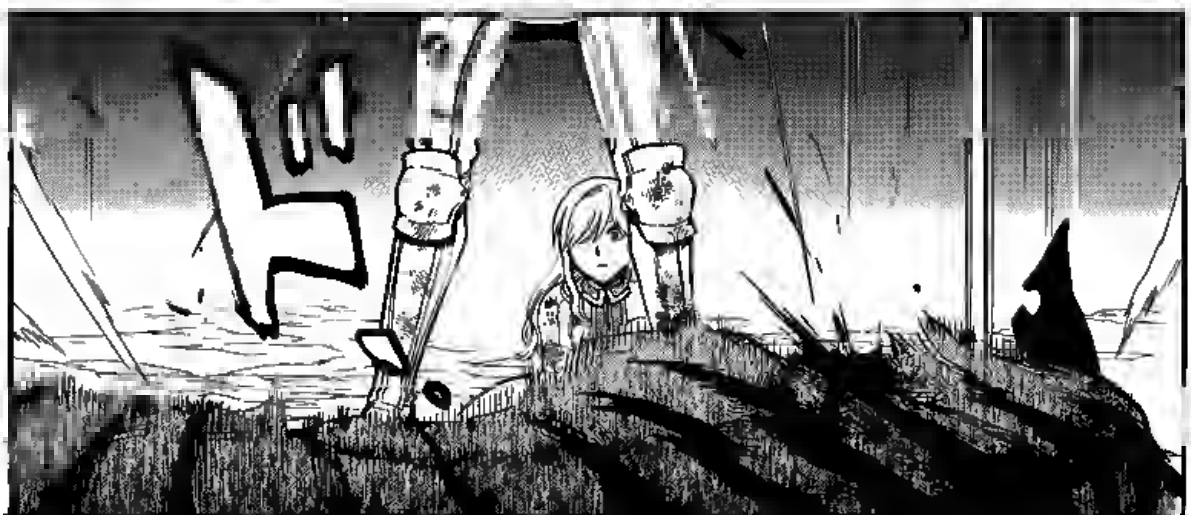
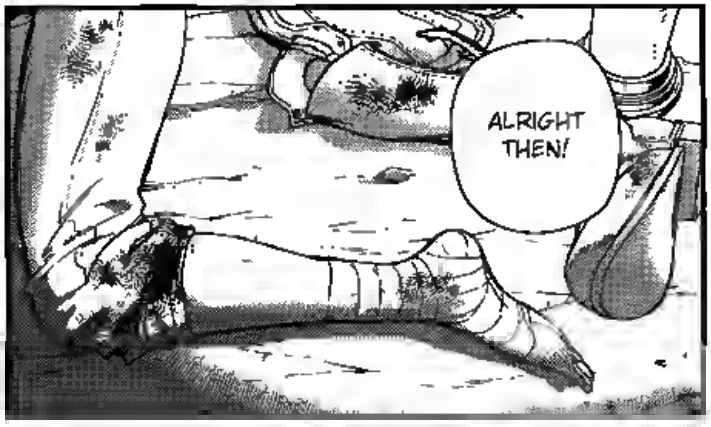
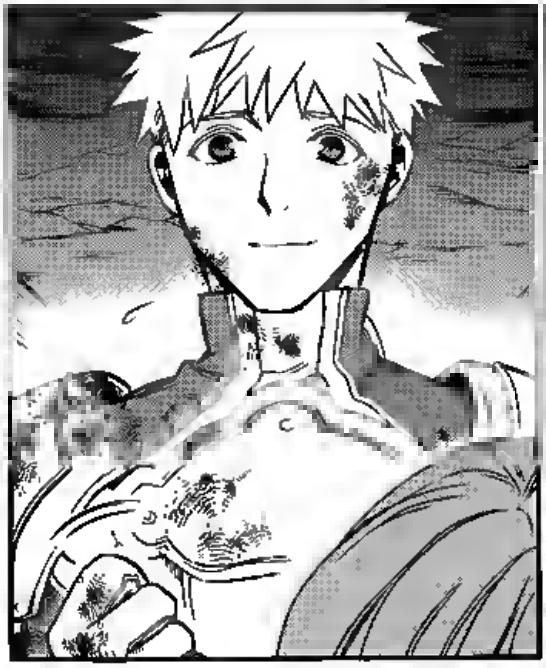
AA
AHHH..
EH?
?
SINCE WHEN WAS I ABLE TO PUT UP A BARRIER?
BEHIND YOU!

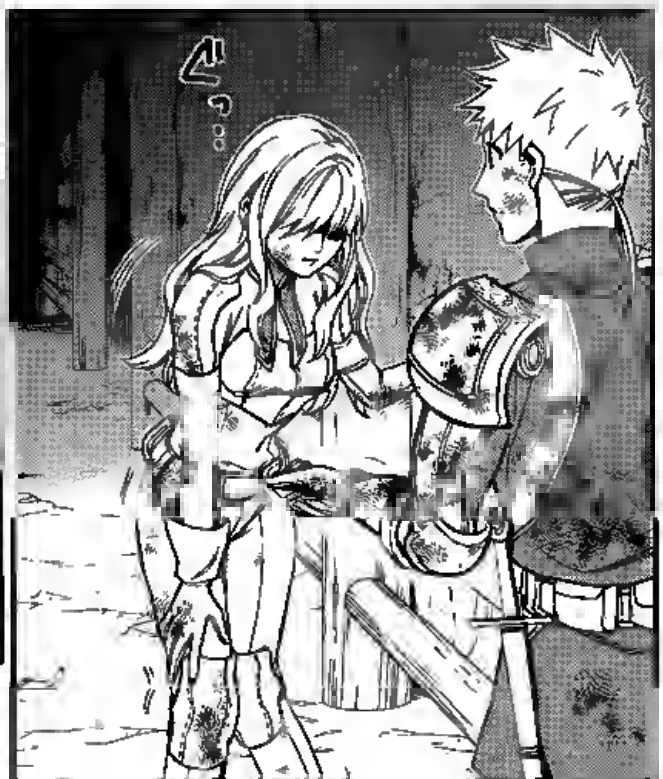


AH SENOA! YOU'RE HURT!
YOUR LEGS!
THAT WAS SCARY !!!
WAA AAA AH...
.....

CAN YOU STAND?


ALRIGHT THEN!

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I'M SORRY.
EH!?
I MADE FUN OF YOU BY CALLING YOU A COWARD.
THAT...
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.
THAT'S NOT IT.
THE GENERAL KNEW.
HE KNEW THAT, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOU ARE A BRAVE AND CAPABLE SOLDIER.
I COULD ONLY SEE WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE.

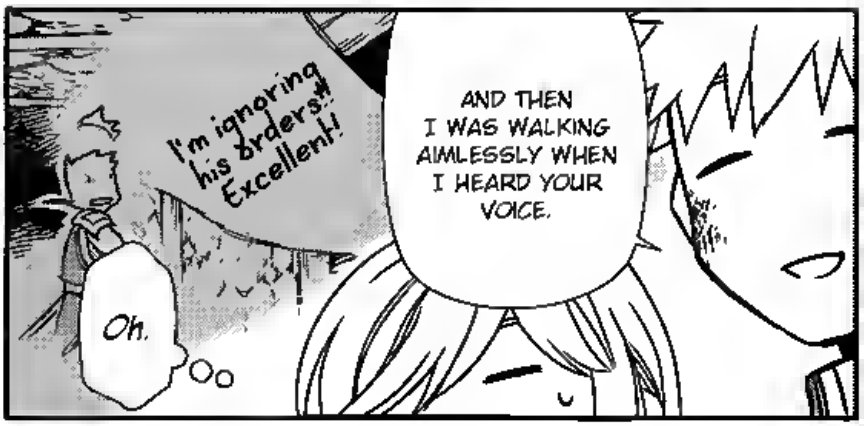
OKAY.
THAT'S WHY, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE...
AND..
IN OTHER WORDS ...
FROM NOW ON...
COMRADE.
I HOPE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S THE GENERAL?
DON'T PEOPLE USUALLY ASK THAT AT THE START?

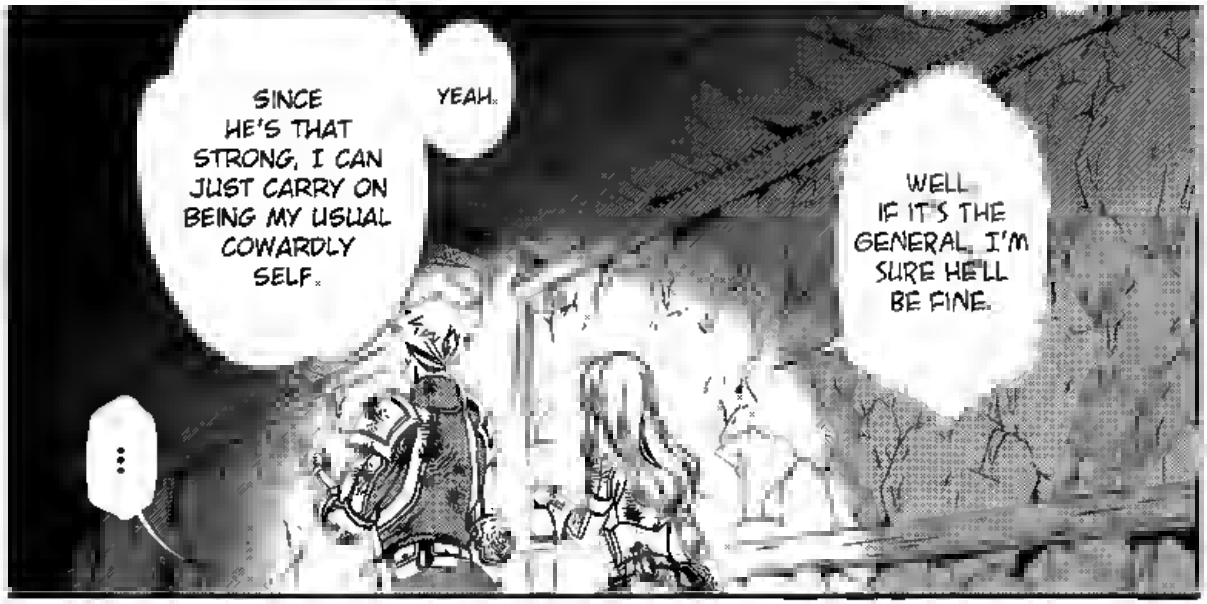
SO GENERAL WAS ALSO THROWN SOMEWHERE, HUH.
ALSO?

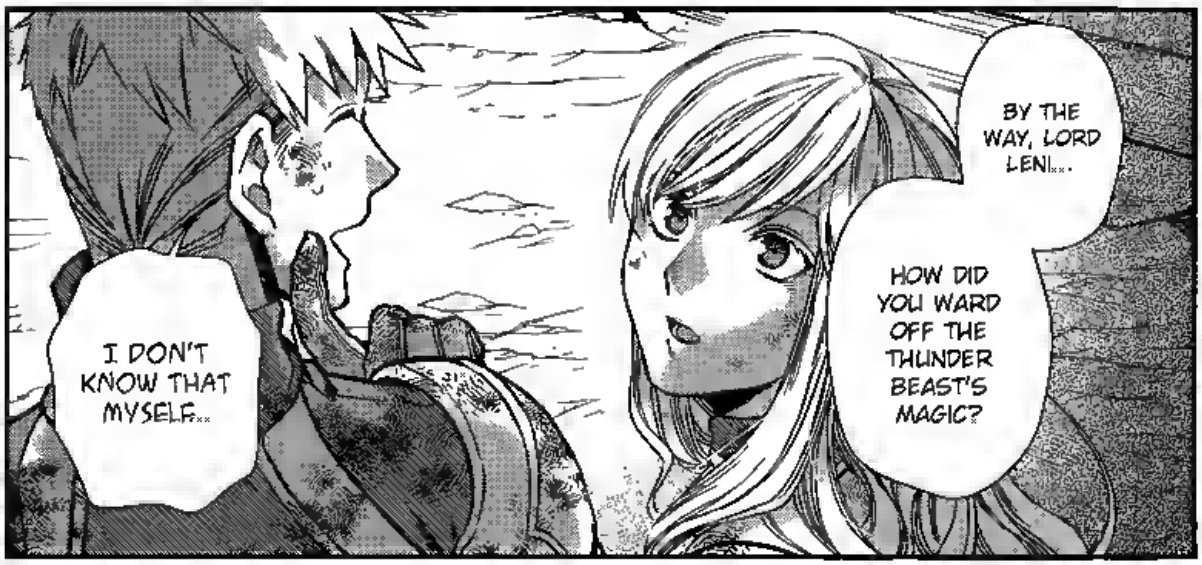
A STRANGE CAVE-IN?
HE JUST FADED AWAY.
NEITHER THE DRAGON NOR THE RUBBLE WERE AT THE BOTTOM...
HUH...

EVEN THOUGH I WAS FOLLOWING THE PATH. THE MOMENT I TURNED BACK IT WAS A DEAD END.

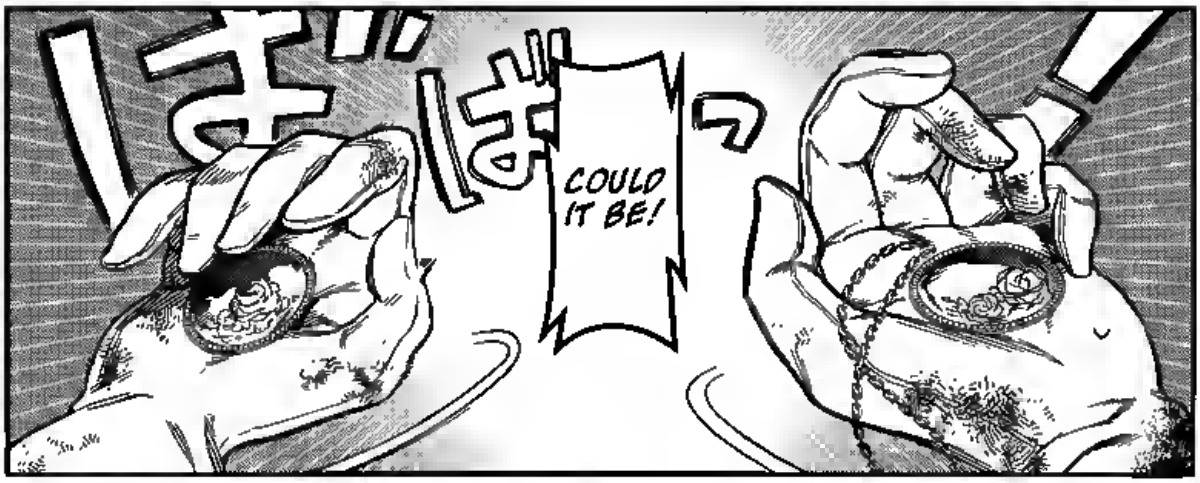
I HEARD SOMEONE CALLING FOR ME BACK THERE.

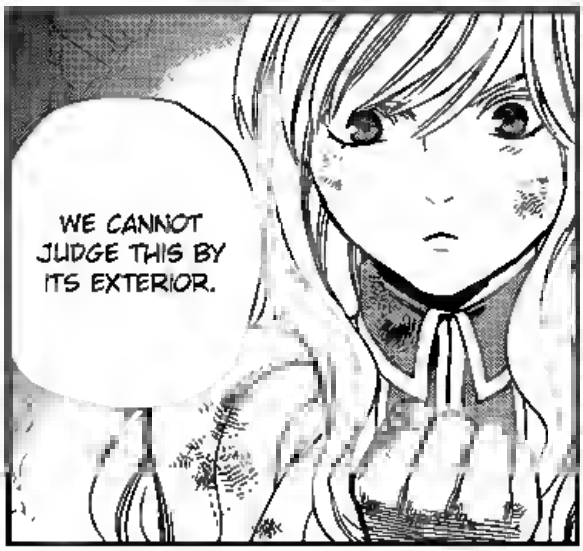

I'm ignoring his orders!! Excellent!
Oh.
AND THEN I WAS WALKING AIMLESSLY WHEN I HEARD YOUR VOICE.

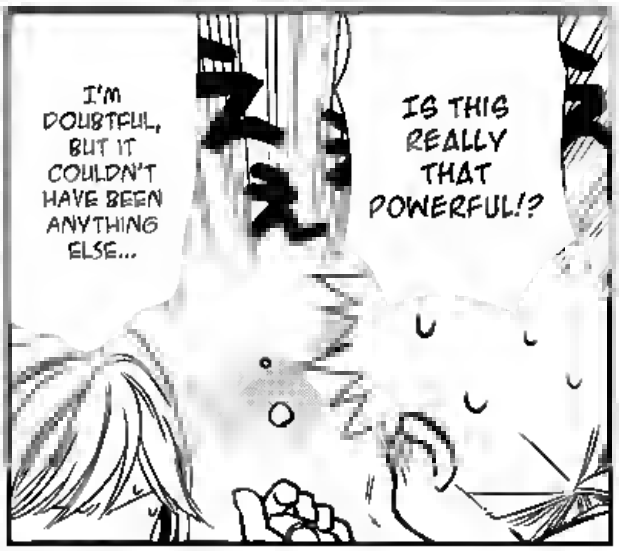

WELL. IF IT'S THE GENERAL, I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE.
YEAH.
SINCE HE'S THAT STRONG, I CAN JUST CARRY ON BEING MY USUAL COWARDLY SELF.
...

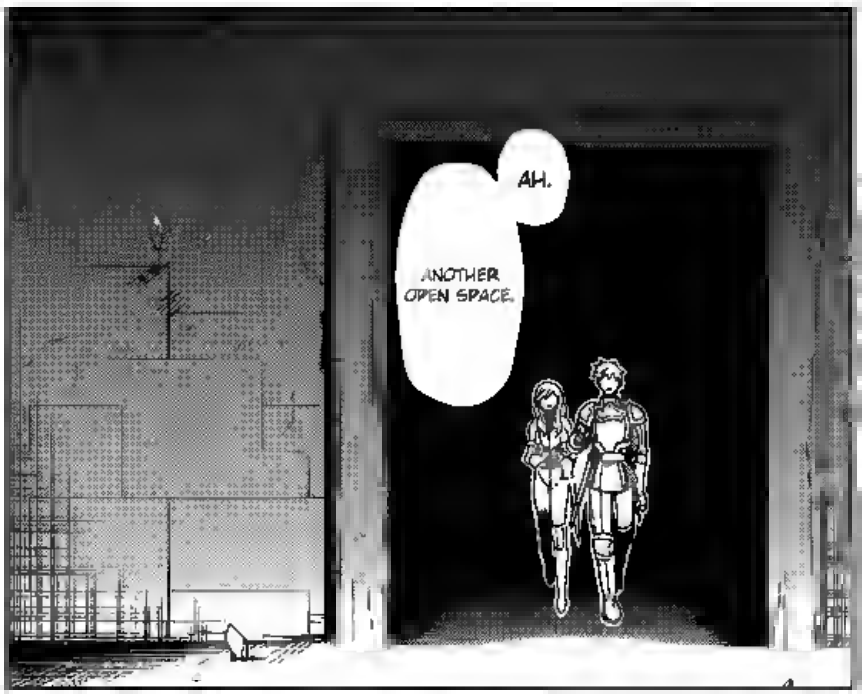

BY THE WAY, LORD LENI...
HOW DID YOU WARD OFF THE THUNDER BEAST'S MAGIC?
I DON'T KNOW THAT MYSELF...

I CAN'T EVEN USE MAGIC.
AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE THAT STRONG A MAGICAL ITEM...

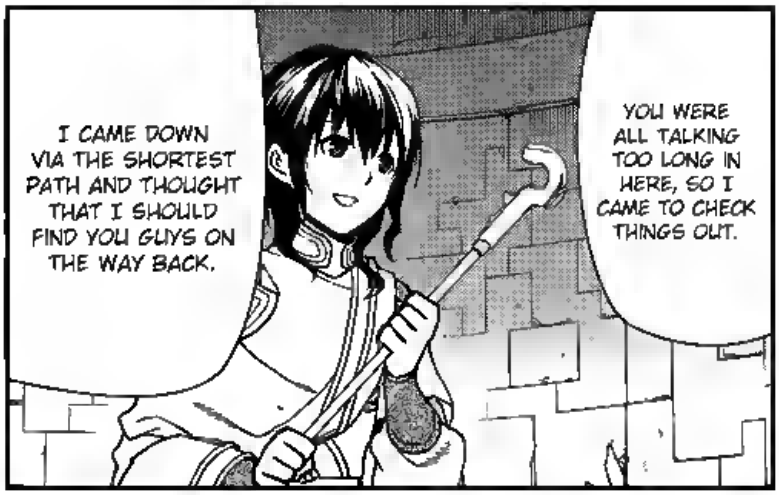

COULD IT BE!


WE CANNOT JUDGE THIS BY ITS EXTERIOR.

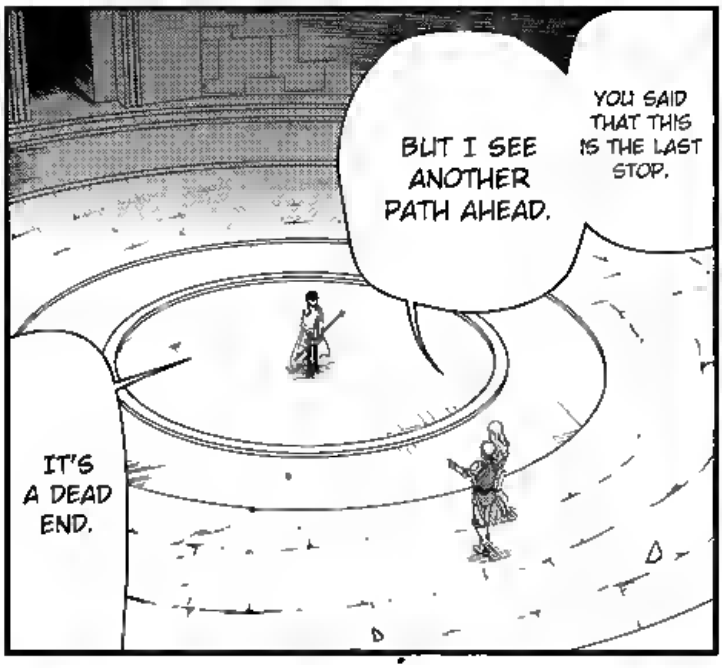

I'M DOUBTFUL, BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANYTHING ELSE...
IS THIS REALLY THAT POWERFUL!?


AH.
ANOTHER OPEN SPACE.

WELCOME.
THIS IS THE LAST STOP.


I CAME DOWN VIA THE SHORTEST PATH AND THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD FIND YOU GUYS ON THE WAY BACK.
YOU WERE ALL TALKING TOO LONG IN HERE, SO I CAME TO CHECK THINGS OUT.

MEL-CURE!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE!


YOU SAID THAT THIS IS THE LAST STOP.
BUT I SEE ANOTHER PATH AHEAD.
IT'S A DEAD END.

ARE YOU ALONE?
.....

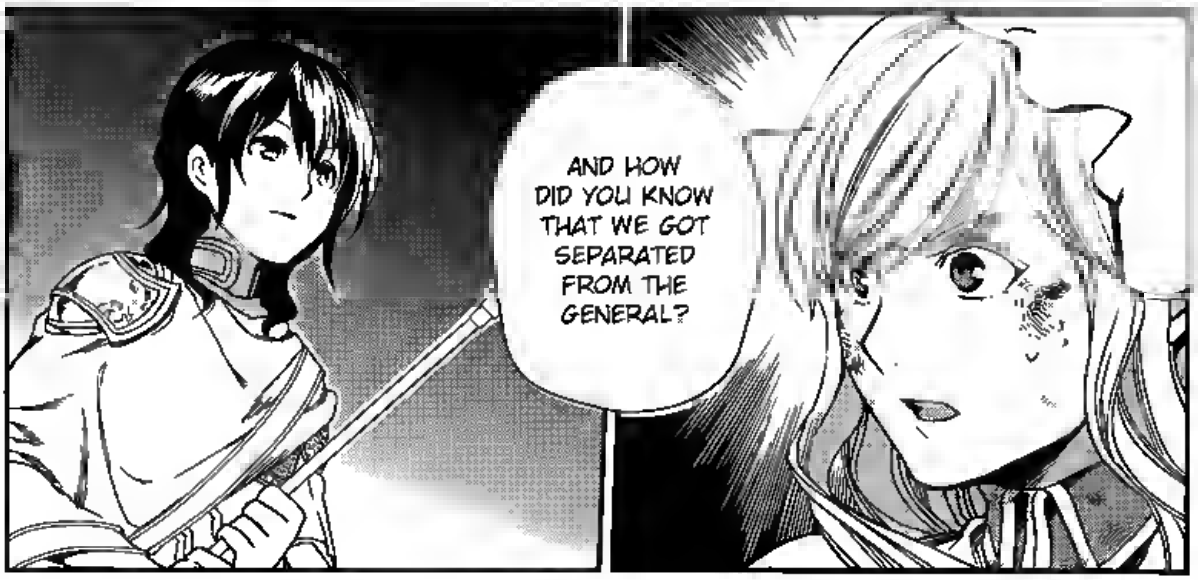
WHAT'S WRONG?

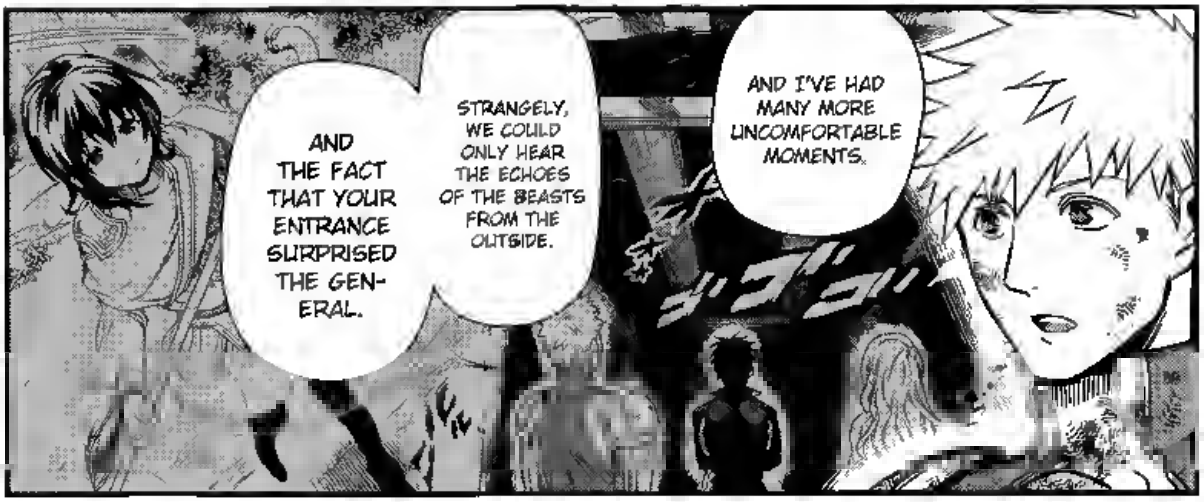
I WILL FIND RAIN-SAN.
YOU SHOULD BOTH GO BACK UP TO THE SURFACE.

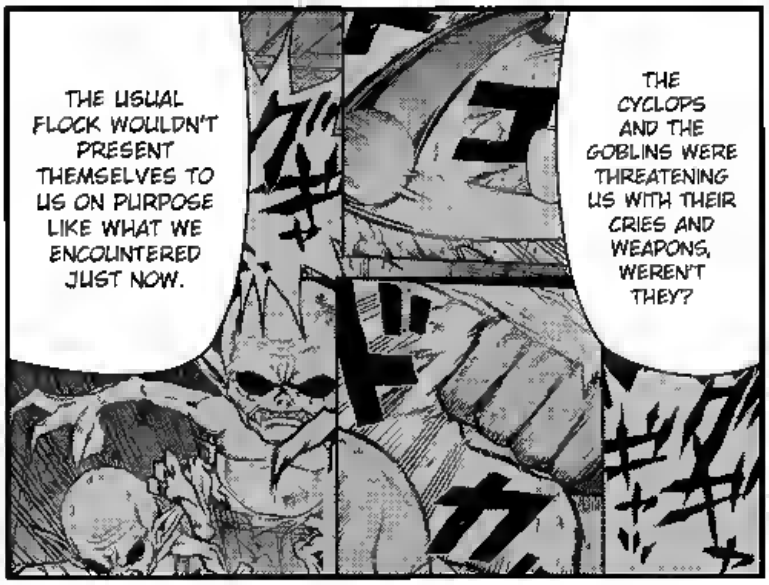
!?
WERE YOU THE ONE WHO RELEASED THE MAGICAL BEASTS INTO THIS MINE?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT....
LENI.
AND THAT.

WE HAVE NEVER MENTIONED OUR NAMES IN FRONT OF YOU BEFORE.


AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT WE GOT SEPARATED FROM THE GENERAL?


AND I'VE HAD MANY MORE UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENTS.
ジゴゴ…
STRANGELY, WE COULD ONLY HEAR THE ECHOES OF THE BEASTS FROM THE OUTSIDE.
AND THE FACT THAT YOUR ENTRANCE SURPRISED THE GENERAL.


THE USUAL FLOCK WOULDN'T PRESENT THEMSELVES TO US ON PURPOSE LIKE WHAT WE ENCOUNTERED JUST NOW.
THE CYCLOPS AND THE GOBLINS WERE THREATENING US WITH THEIR CRIES AND WEAPONS, WEREN'T THEY?

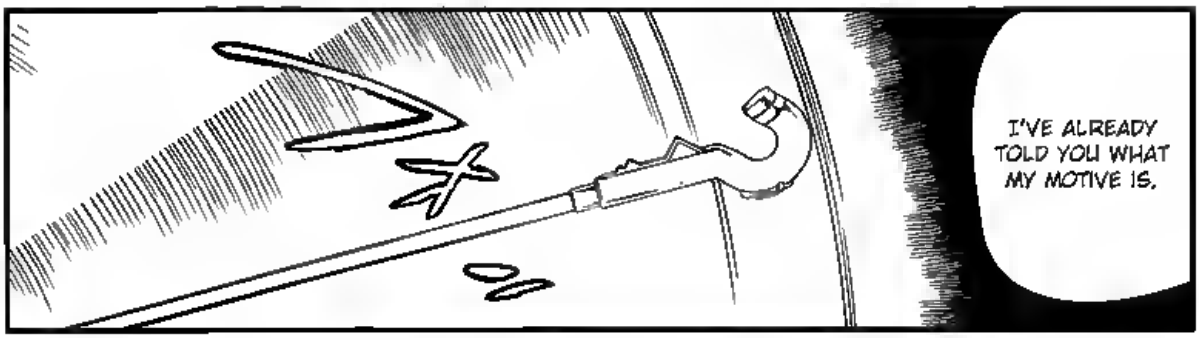
WHAT!?
THE BEASTS' ATTACKS WERE ALSO WAY TOO LENIENT.

THE LIGHTNING BEAST EVEN ATTACKED YOU!
BUT, THE LITTLE DRAGON?

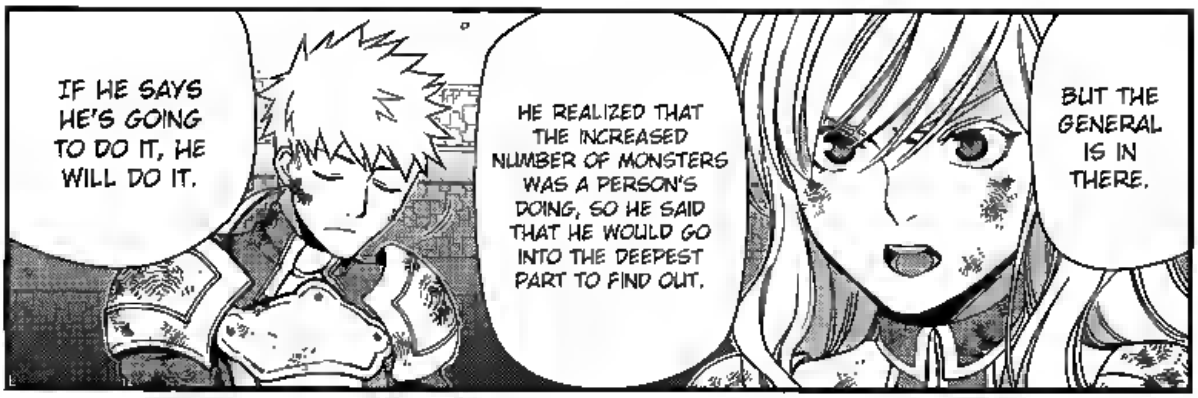
THEY WOULD MAKE A SNEAK ATTACK.
ガッ
So I got my hopes up for nothing

ONLY THE DRAGON'S FIRE WAS FOR REAL, BUT IT WAS A TEST OF RAIN'S STRENGTH.
EVEN IF YOU ARE HIT, YOU WON'T SUSTAIN A FATAL WOUND.
A LITTLE ADJUSTMENT WAS MADE TO THE POWER OF THEIR MAGIC.
AS EXPECTED.
LOOKS LIKE RAIN-SAN CAME WELL PREPARED.
IT DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED, AND YOU EVEN AVOIDED THE LIGHTNING ATTACK...
I WAS HOPING TO SEND THE TWO OF YOU BACK UP TO THE SURFACE USING MENACE AND METASTASIS...
NO, IT'S THANKS TO THIS PLACE THAT I WAS ABLE TO DO SUCH THINGS.
YOU SUMMONED THOSE BEASTS AND EVEN PERFORMED METASTASIS MAGIC...
YOU'RE A PRETTY POWERFUL MAGICIAN.

IT ACTS LIKE A MAGIC AMPLIFIER.
THIS PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY A MINE OF MAGICAL STONES.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE MONSTERS THAT ATTACKED THE VILLAGERS WERE COINCIDENTALLY THE ONES THAT HAVE BEEN LIVING HERE IN THE FOREST FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
I CAN ONLY SUMMON AND CONTROL THE BEASTS WITHIN THE MINE.
THE DISAPPEAR-ANCES ARE REAL.
THE ONLY ONES THAT I ACTUALLY MADE "DISAPPEAR" WERE RAIN AND LENI.
YOU SUMMONED THE BEASTS AND EVEN FABRICATED RUMORS ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCES
WHAT'S YOUR GOAL? IS IT GENERAL RAIN?


I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU WHAT MY MOTIVE IS.

THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS PLACE.
I CANNOT LET ANY OF YOU GO ANY FURTHER THAN THIS.
AHEAD IS A PLACE WHERE HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD NOT TREAD.


IF HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO DO IT, HE WILL DO IT.
HE REALIZED THAT THE INCREASED NUMBER OF MONSTERS WAS A PERSON'S DOING, SO HE SAID THAT HE WOULD GO INTO THE DEEPEST PART TO FIND OUT.
BUT THE GENERAL IS IN THERE.

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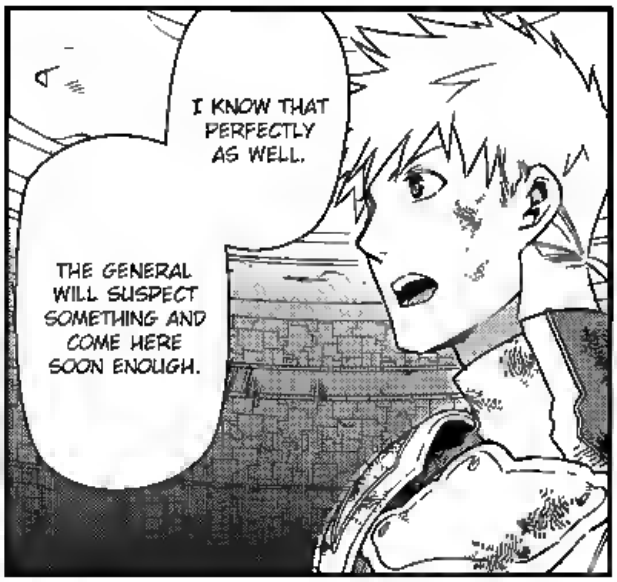
THAT'S WHY RAIN IS DANGEROUS.
I ONLY WANTED TO TEST HIS STRENGTH, BUT HIM GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE DEEPEST PART IS GOING TO BE TROUBLESOME.


I KNOW THAT PERFECTLY AS WELL.
THE GENERAL WILL SUSPECT SOMETHING AND COME HERE SOON ENOUGH.

MELCURE.
YES?

I CAN'T AFFORD TO TRAP HIM FOREVER IN AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION EITHER.

ETERNALLY?
TRAP HIM...
COULD YOU GIVE...
OUR GENERAL BACK TO US?
IF YOU TRY AND MAKE A MOVE ON HIM, I WILL ATTACK YOU EVEN IF YOU'RE A KID.
SO YOUR MOVEMENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THIS GOOD WHEN YOU'RE NOT UP AGAINST MAGICAL BEASTS.
THAT WAS SHOCKING.

LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS REALLY ADORE RAIN-SAN.
I'M SORRY! DON'T GET SO ANGRY!
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF US!?
I'LL REVERT THE ISOLATED DIMENSION.
PLEASE STAY YOUR WEAPONS.
NO NEED FOR THAT.
KI
O!

HOW DARE YOU PUT THIS HANDSOME MAN TOGETHER WITH AN UGLY ONE?
MEL-CURE!
GEN-ERAL!
WHAT IS THIS, GENERAL?
ゴゴゴ
THERE WEREN'T ANY EXITS.
SO I MADE ONE.

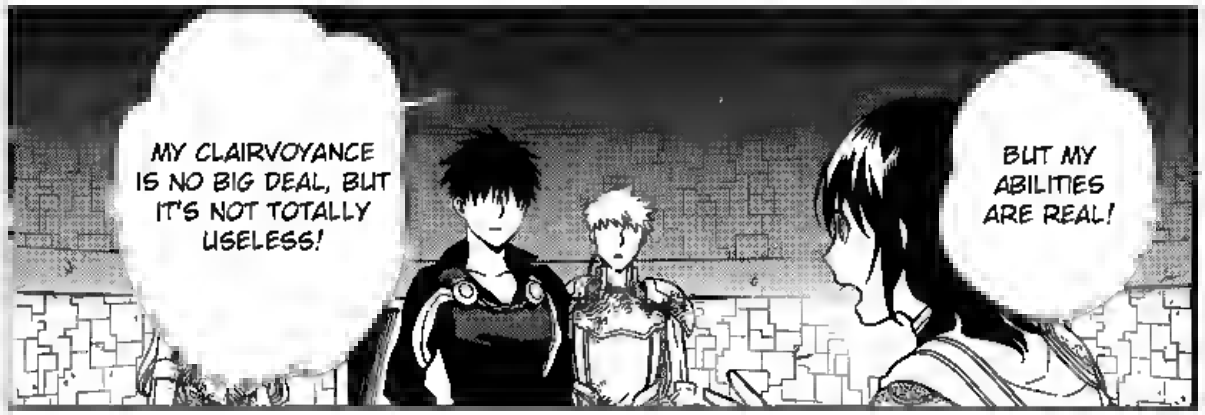
Even with the aid of the magic stones within the mine...
He managed to break out of the isolated dimension.
Is this the power of the notorious "Courtesan's Blade" and its owner...

ARE YOU HURT, GENERAL? DO YOU FEEL STRANGE ANYWHERE?
Nah. I'm just getting the shivers.
There is no boundary to my level of genius.
HE'S HIS USUAL SELF.

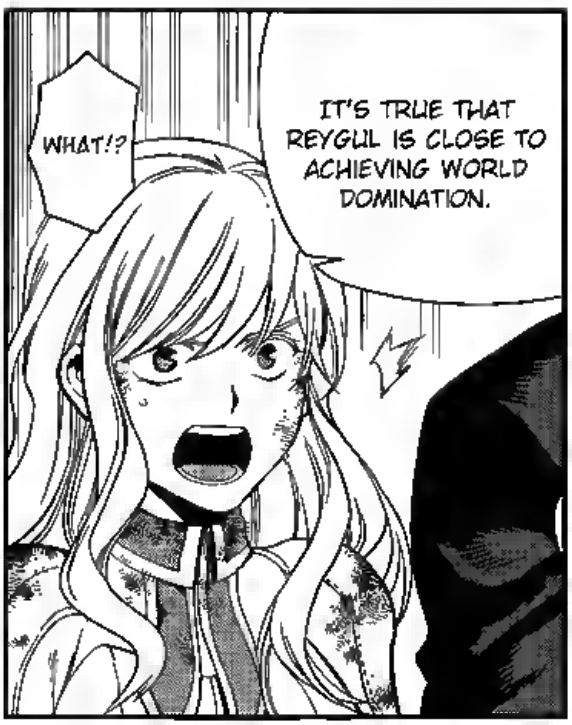
GOOD WORK IN TAKING CARE OF THOSE THINGS.
THIS MAGICAL ITEM IS REALLY...
I TRANS-FERRED SOME OF MY POWERS INTO THEM.
IT'S A MARK THAT'S USED FOR SELF-DEFENSE.

THERE ARE A FEW WHO ARE ABLE TO USE SUCH POWERS...
METASTASIS. ILLUSIONS. CREATION OF ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS. LONG-VISION, CLAIRVOYANCE...
NOW THEN, MELCURE.
BY ANY CHANCE... ARE YOU A DEMON?

YOU COULD SAY WE'RE ACCOMPLICES, BUT I'M DIFFERENT FROM HIS KIND.
NO.


MY CLAIRVOYANCE IS NO BIG DEAL, BUT IT'S NOT TOTALLY USELESS!
BUT MY ABILITIES ARE REAL!

BECOMING KING AND RULING THE WORLD TO FINALLY ACHIEVE WORLD PEACE IS NOT EXACTLY A BAD IDEA.
THERE ARE OTHERS WHO FEEL THAT WAY.


WHAT!?
IT'S TRUE THAT REYGUL IS CLOSE TO ACHIEVING WORLD DOMINATION.

HOW VERBOSE.
OF COURSE THAT'S ASSUMING THAT YOU DON'T GET IN THE WAY.

I TOLD YOU I WOULDN'T RETREAT!
WITH THAT THIN STICK!?
HE BLOCKED IT!?

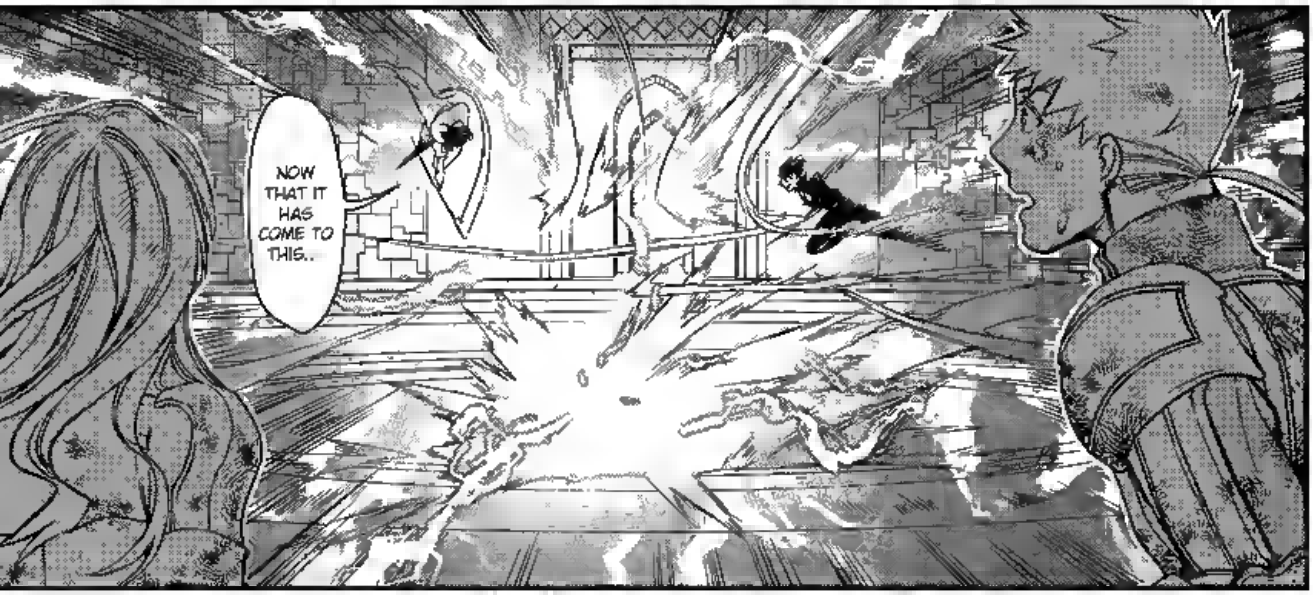
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING.
HE'S JUST LIKE THE GOD OF CONVICTION FROM THE LEGENDS, HELL KING VARIUS
THAT SCYTHE...

MY ONLY AIM IS TO PERSUADE YOU..
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO..
FIGHT..
IF YOU WANT TO PERSUADE, GO TO REYGUL
BUT I DON'T THINK HE LIKES TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE.

ALSO, IF YOU WANT TO TEST MY POWERS, THIS WOULD BE THE FASTEST WAY.

STARDUST
SYMPHONY!

THAT DIDN'T WORK?
IT'S NO USE!


NOW THAT IT HAS COME TO THIS..

HMM..

I DON'T WANT ANY OF US TO DIE THIS WAY.
HEY, DON'T RUN AWAY!
THIS TIME, I WILL RETREAT.
I WANT TO SEE THE FATE THAT LIES AHEAD OF YOU WHILE I AIM TO DO AS YOU'VE SAID.
THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING IN THIS TIME.
YOU SAID THAT AN ALLY OF JUSTICE SHOULD AIM TO SAVE EVERYTHING.
FROM NOW ON, THIS WORLD WILL ONLY GET MORE AND MORE LIVELY.
THERE IS GREAT POWER CRAWLING ABOUT.
RAIN.

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO ENFORCE YOUR BELIEFS...
INSIDE THAT LARGE FLOW OF EVENTS.
I SUPPOSE IT WOULDN'T BE TOO BAD FOR YOU TO TAKE A PEEK AT THE WIDE WORLD AHEAD OF YOU.
HOWEVER, I CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL COME BACK ALIVE

WH...
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS!?

UWAHH!
THE EXIT!!

WE CAN STILL MAKE IT!
RUN!!
And so...

Comes the end of the mystery of the mine.
WE'VE CLEANED UP THE BEASTS.
I THINK SOME MAGICIANS WERE PRACTICING THEIR SUMMONING.
HOWEVER, THE DEEPEST PART OF THE CAVE IS GEOGRAPHICALLY DANGEROUS EVEN IF ONE POSSESSES MAGIC...
SO WE SEALED THE ROADS AND CAVES THAT LEAD TO THAT SECTION OF THE MINE.
EXCUSE ME.
THAT'S WONDERFUL! THANK YOU SO MUCH.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW A YOUNG BOY BY THE NAME "MELCURE"?
HE SAID HE HAD RELATIVES IN THIS VILLAGE.
ONCE IN A WHILE, HE WOULD COME HERE TO ACT AS A GUIDE.
?

I WONDER WHO THAT BOY WAS...

EH?
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS OUR WORLD

FOR IT TO HAVE BEEN IN THIS WORLD...
AND THAT LANDSCAPE...

AFTER ALL, HE CALLED HIMSELF AN ALLY OF JUSTICE.
IN ANY CASE, I'M SURE WE WILL MEET HIM AGAIN.

GENERAL! WELCOME BACK!

OKAY, GOOD WORK!
WE CAN LEAVE FOR COATCREAS CASTLE ANY TIME.
GEN-ERAL!
A QUESTION...

THESE ARE THE HORSE AND CLOTHES ASSIGNED FOR YOUR JOURNEY BACK.

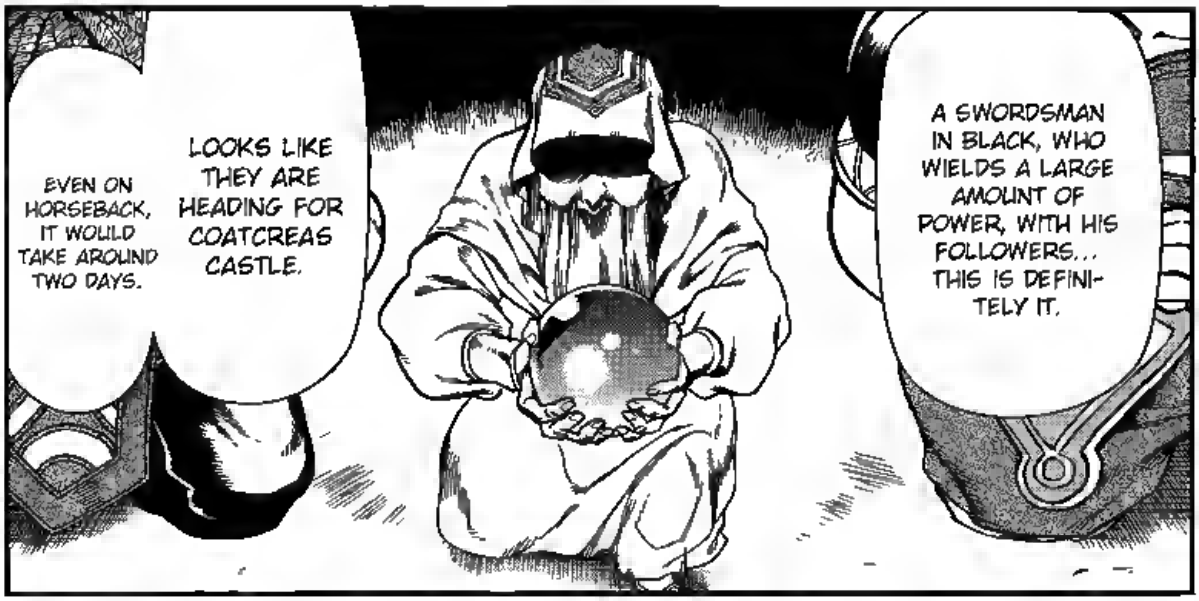
I THINK WE CAN KEEP THEM.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THESE?

RIGHT?
HE MADE UP THE EXCUSE OF THEM BEING SOUVENIRS SO THAT WE WON'T LOSE THEM.

...I SEE.

I'VE GOT HIM.


EVEN ON HORSEBACK, IT WOULD TAKE AROUND TWO DAYS.
LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE HEADING FOR COATCREAS CASTLE.
A SWORDSMAN IN BLACK, WHO WIELDS A LARGE AMOUNT OF POWER, WITH HIS FOLLOWERS... THIS IS DEFINITELY IT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY SINCE THE PRINCESS IS FAR AWAY FROM

MY LORD! WE THREE WILL DEFINITELY MAKE UP FOR OUR PREVIOUS DISHONOR!

I EXPECT GOOD NEWS THIS TIME.

DESTROY SHELFA.
The evil influence of an "organization" approaches the young queen—
monthly comic BLADE 4 2/26発売 月号へ続く

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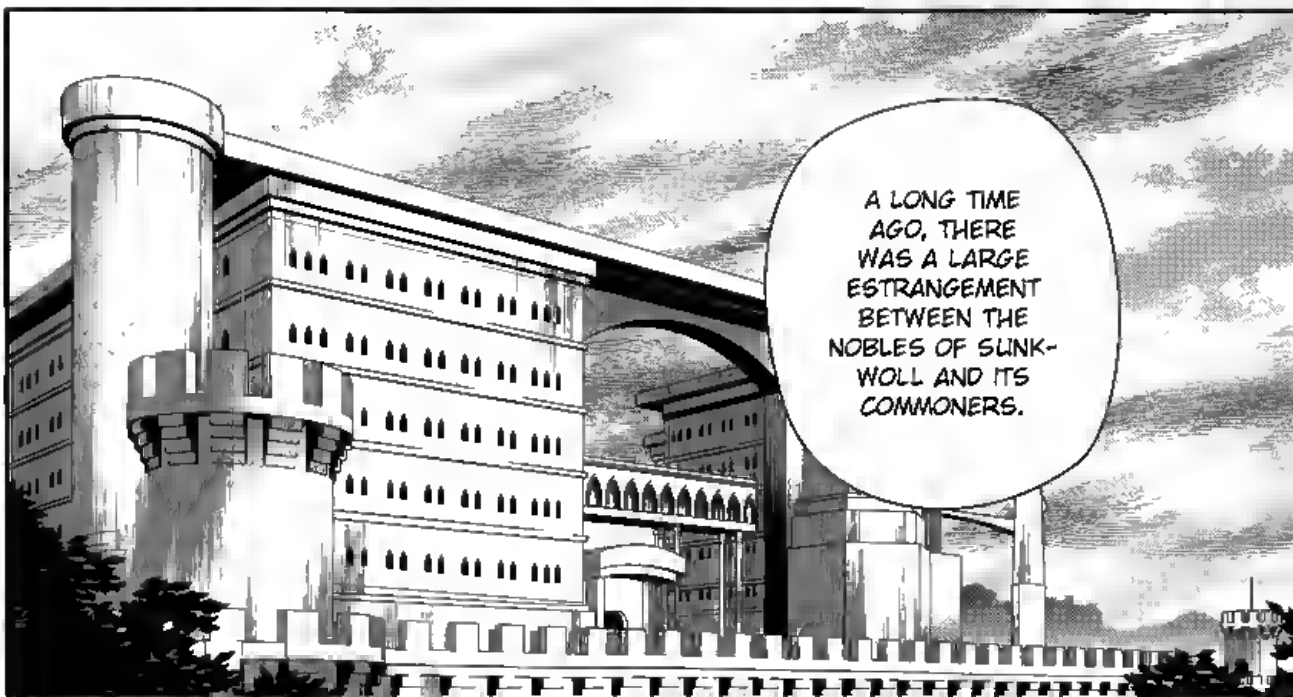
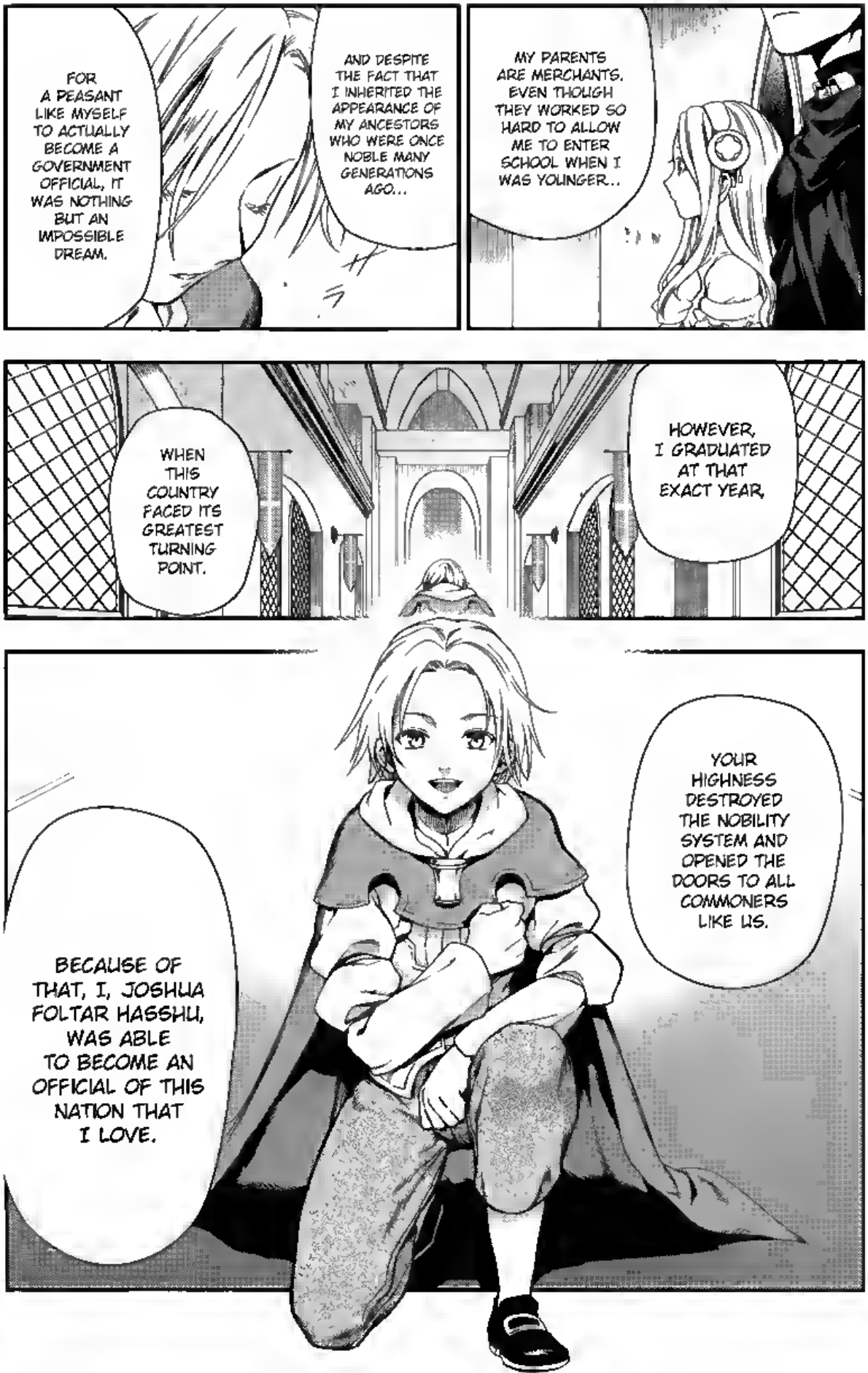
The long-awaited Fighter Gathering Arc begins!

Chapter 43: Enter, the Fighters' Gathering.

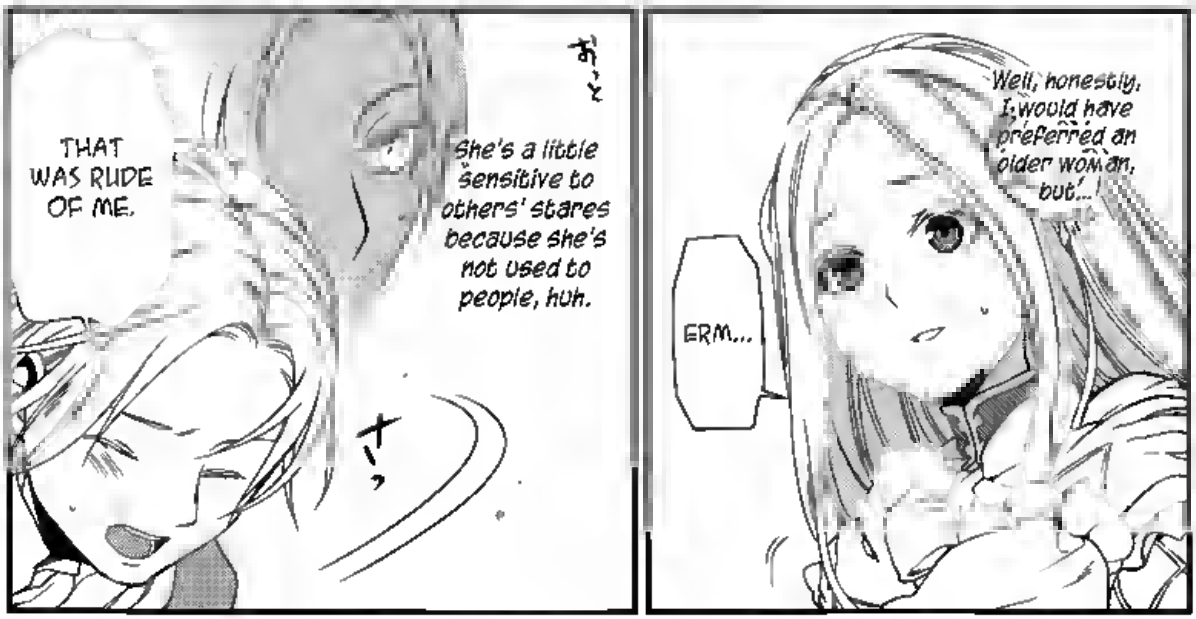
原作 吉野匠 (「ドレイン」「アルファポリス」刊) 作画 住川恵 (電撃G's magazine「アスコットA」)

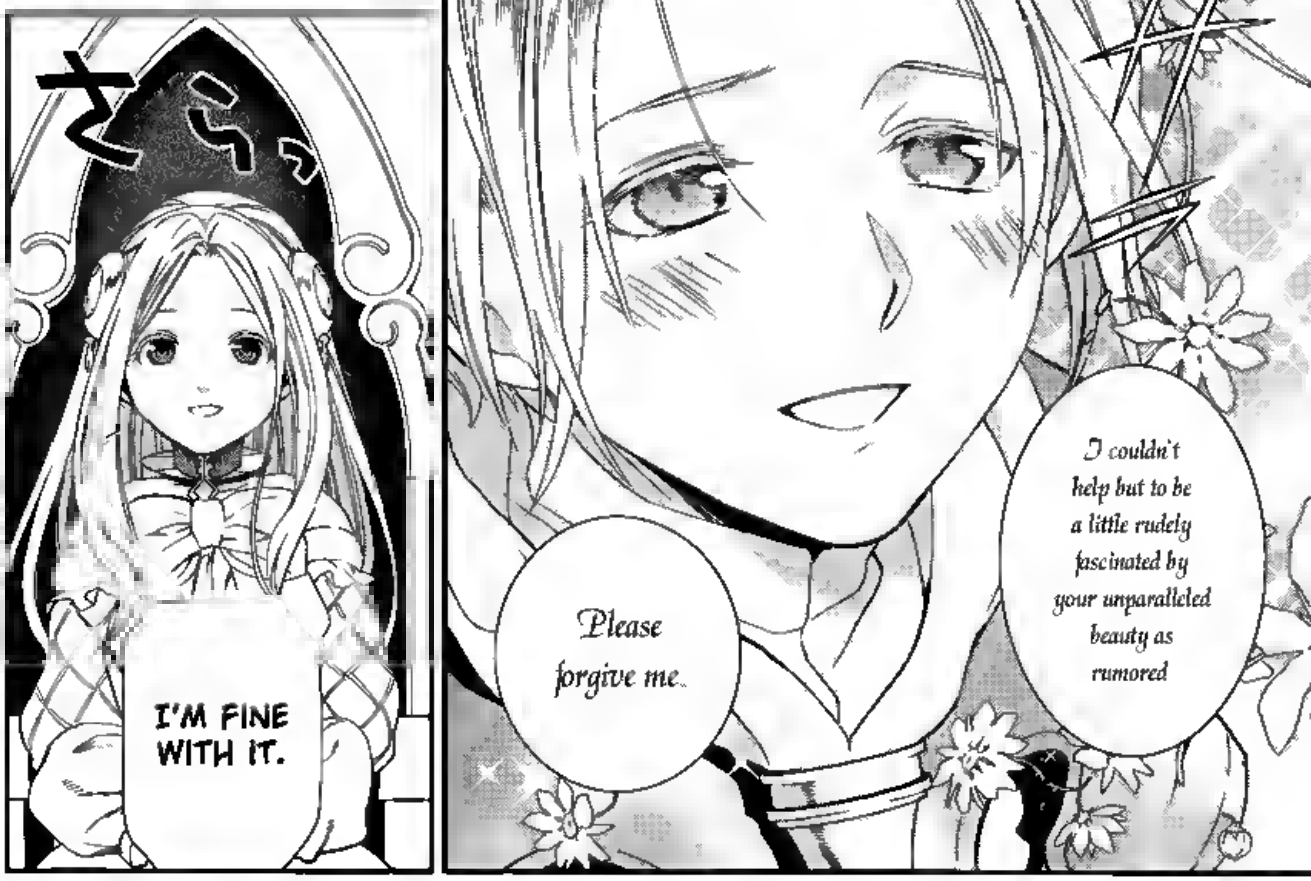



FOR A PEASANT LIKE MYSELF TO ACTUALLY BECOME A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, IT WAS NOTHING BUT AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.
AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT I INHERITED THE APPEARANCE OF MY ANCESTORS WHO WERE ONCE NOBLE MANY GENERATIONS AGO...
MY PARENTS ARE MERCHANTS. EVEN THOUGH THEY WORKED SO HARD TO ALLOW ME TO ENTER SCHOOL WHEN I WAS YOUNGER..
WHEN THIS COUNTRY FACED ITS GREATEST TURNING POINT.
HOWEVER, I GRADUATED AT THAT EXACT YEAR.
YOUR HIGHNESS DESTROYED THE NOBILITY SYSTEM AND OPENED THE DOORS TO ALL COMMONERS LIKE US.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I, JOSHUA FOLTAR HASSHU, WAS ABLE TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL OF THIS NATION THAT I LOVE.

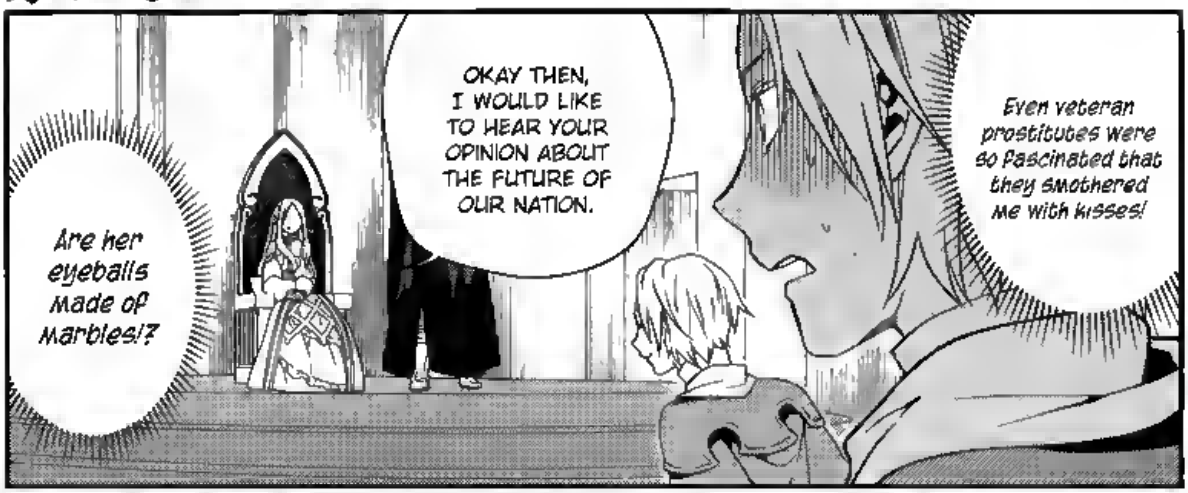
WE HAVE ALWAYS WISHED FOR SUCH TALENT IN OUR COUNTRY.
THE OFFICIAL EXAMINERS TOLD ME OF YOUR RARE AND OUTSTANDING TALENT.
THE CHIEF ALSO TOLD ME THAT RESULTS OF THE USUAL PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION YOU TAKE IN SCHOOL REVEALS NO SHORT-COMINGS.
So this is Queen Shelfa...
YOUR WORDS ARE TOO GREAT AN HONOR!

It was because the previous king did not reveal enough about her that I lacked the information, however...
Her face and body are perfect!
And her kindness is over-whelming!!
Even greater than the rumors!


THAT WAS RUDE OF ME.
She's a little sensitive to others' stares because she's not used to people, huh.
Well, honestly, I would have preferred an older woman, but...
ERM...


さら？
I'M FINE WITH IT.
Please forgive me.
I couldn't help but to be a little rudely fascinated by your unparalleled beauty as rumored

IMPOSSIBLE!
SHE DIDN'T MOVE THE SLIGHTEST BIT AT MY ANGELIC SMILE!?
Thank you for your leniency.


Are her eyeballs made of marbles!?
OKAY THEN, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION.
Even veteran prostitutes were so fascinated that they smothered me with kisses!

I can do with a frontal attack!
YES. I SHALL BE STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH MY OPINION.
Calm down... After all, she has always been locked inside.

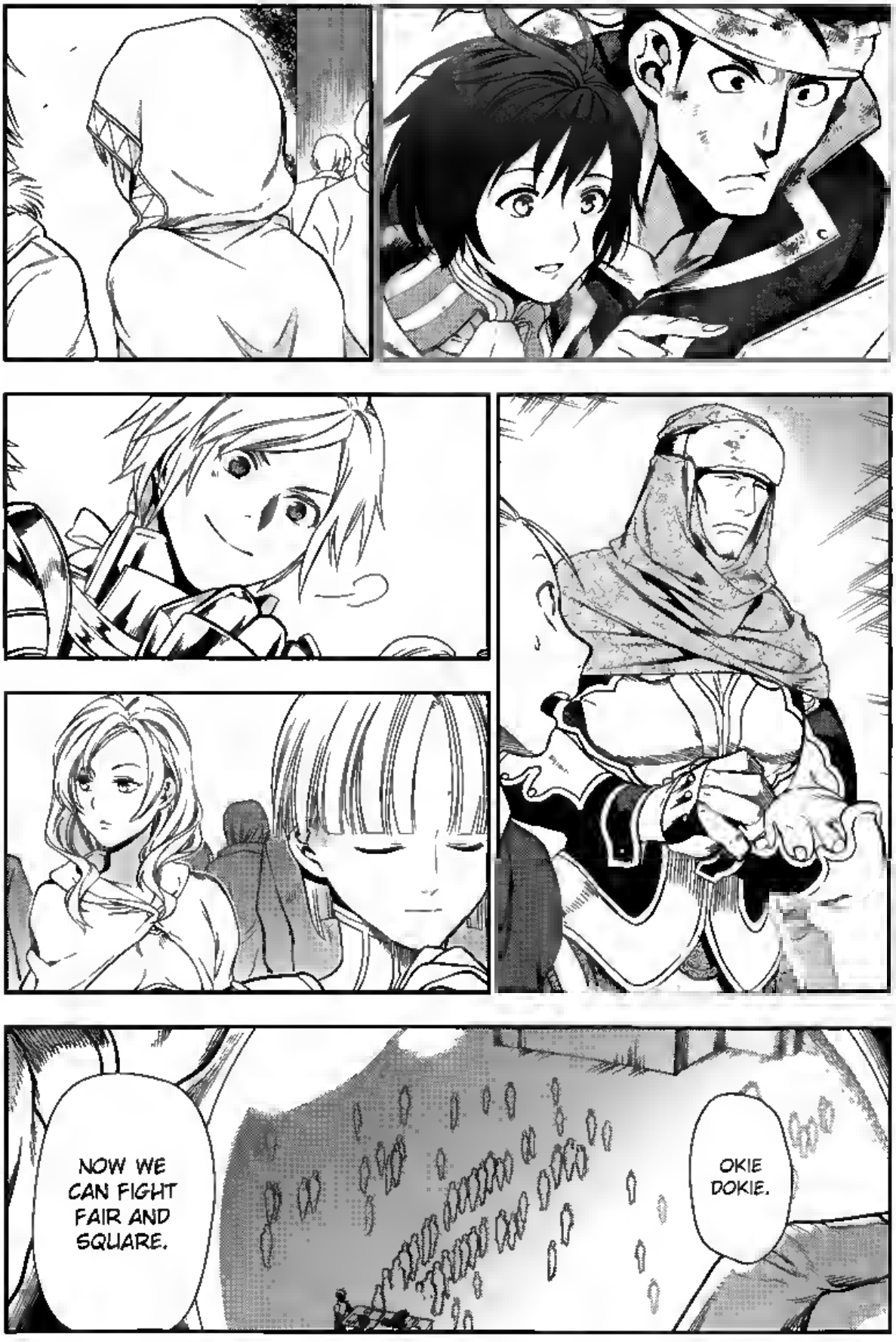
At the entrance of the arena.

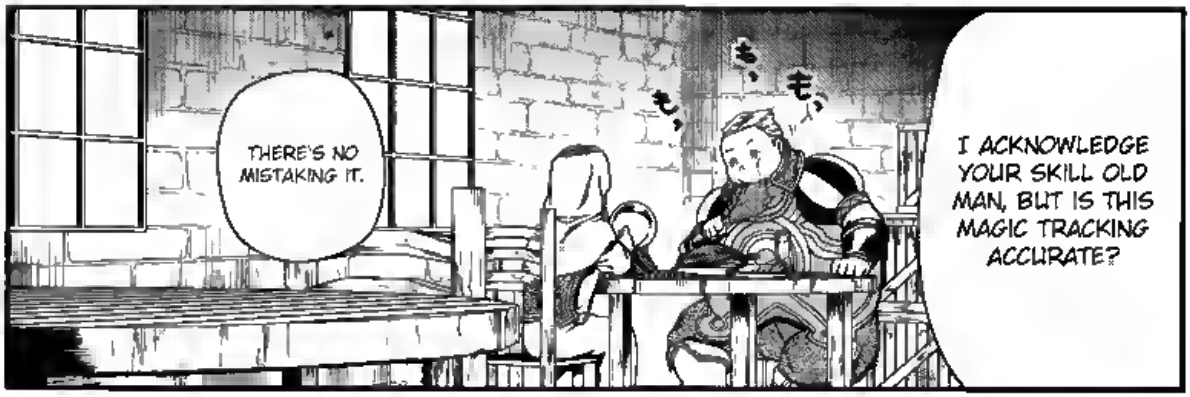
Sunkwall Fighters' Gathering
(Knights' promotional examination)
registration counters.!

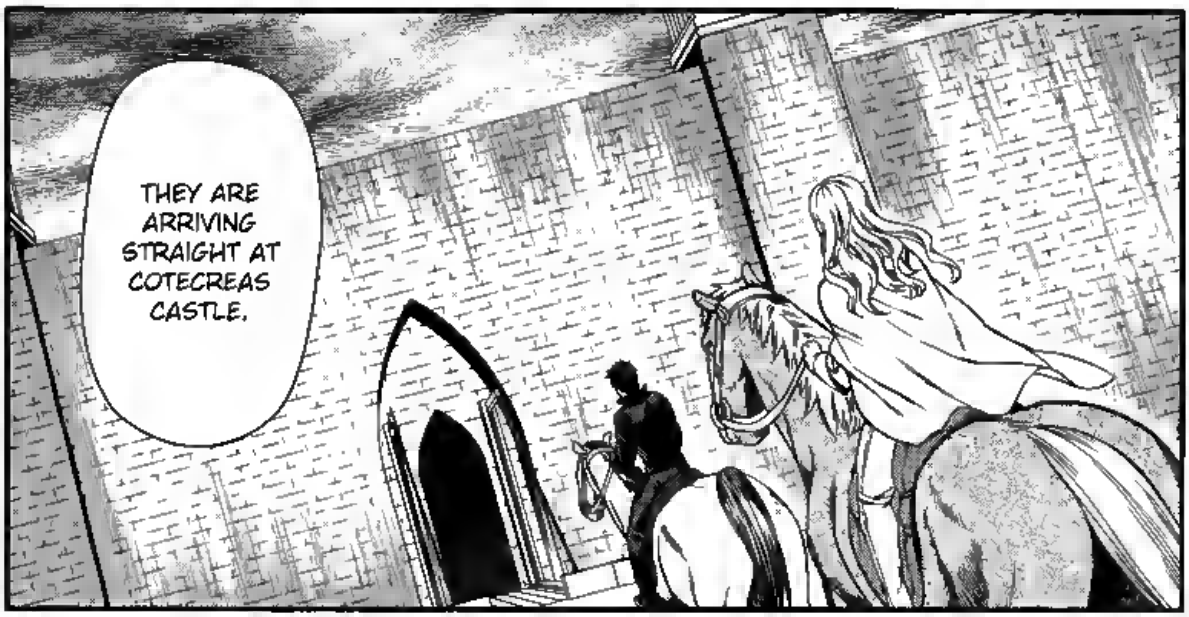
I'M SORRY, YUUKI AND SELPHY!
OFFICER MILAN HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!!
あ！
IT'S QUITE RARE TO SEE SUCH DILIGENT OFFICER ARRIVE LATE.

AH, PARDON ME.
I OVER-SLEPT A LITTLE!
IT SURE IS A FINE DAY TODAY.
IT'S FINE.
ERM, HER NAME IS.
I THINK THAT CHILD IS A PARTICIPANT AS WELL
THIS DULL WEATHER SURE IS GOOD, HUH...

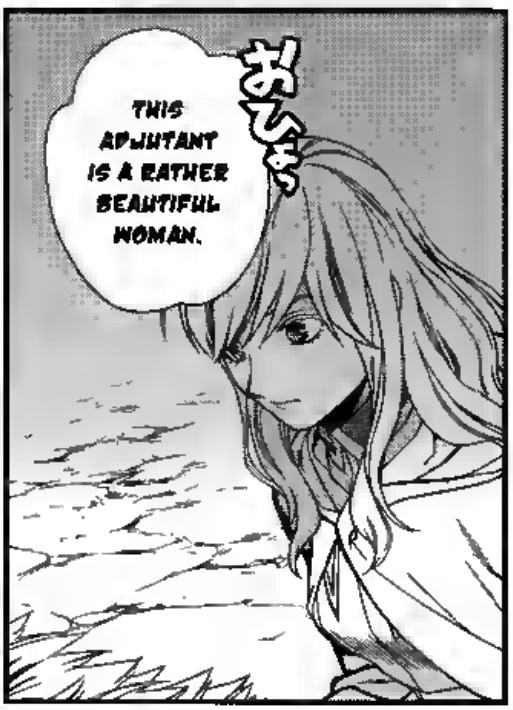
O-o-okay. Right away!
I will feel more pressured if I register later on.
すいません!!
Hey miss! Please hurry up and register me!
ALRIGHT, PLEASE FILL IN YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION IN HERE.
EVEN THOUGH THIS GUY IS CRUDE, VIOLENT AND HAS A LOUD VOICE, HE'S ACTUALLY NOT A SCARY MAN.
どんっ
I'M SORRY, MISS.
AH.
OKAY!
HEY, OFFICER! COME HERE AND HELP US AS WELL!

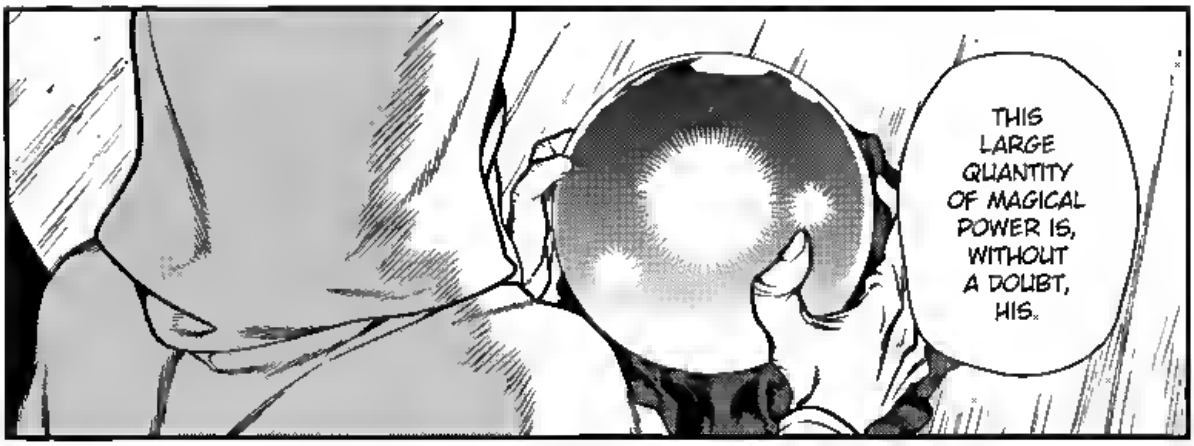

NOW WE CAN FIGHT FAIR AND SQUARE.
OKIE DOKIE.


THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.
I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SKILL OLD MAN, BUT IS THIS MAGIC TRACKING ACCURATE?

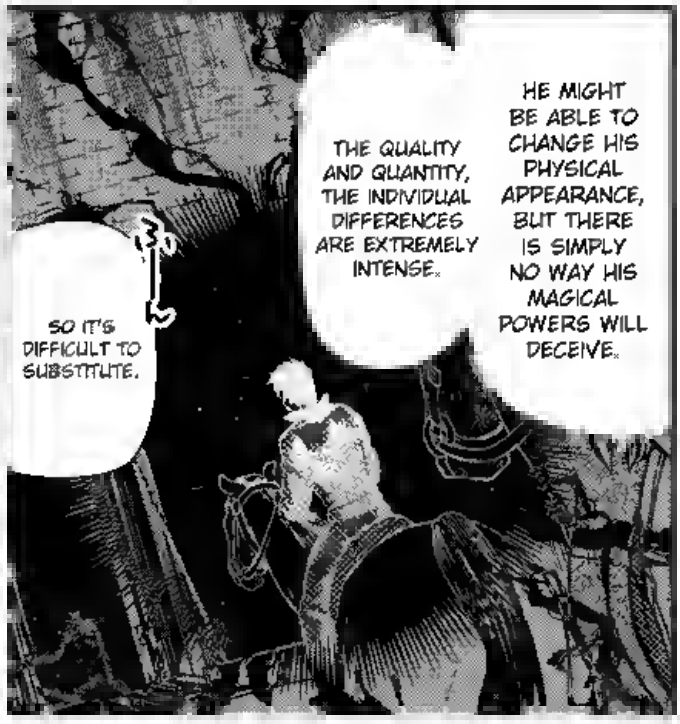

THEY ARE ARRIVING STRAIGHT AT COTECREAS CASTLE.

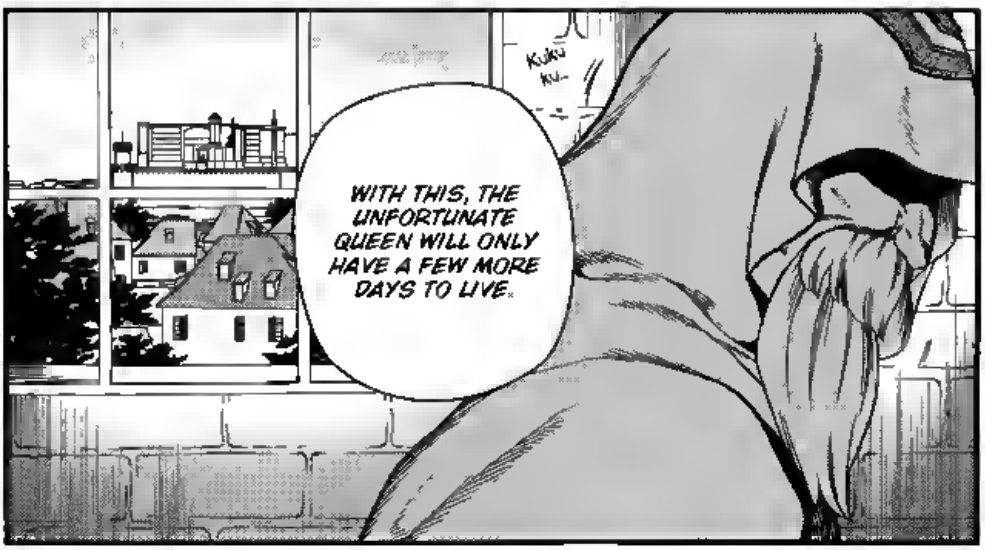
WHO CARES ABOUT GUYS!
I CAN'T SEE THE LENI GUY?

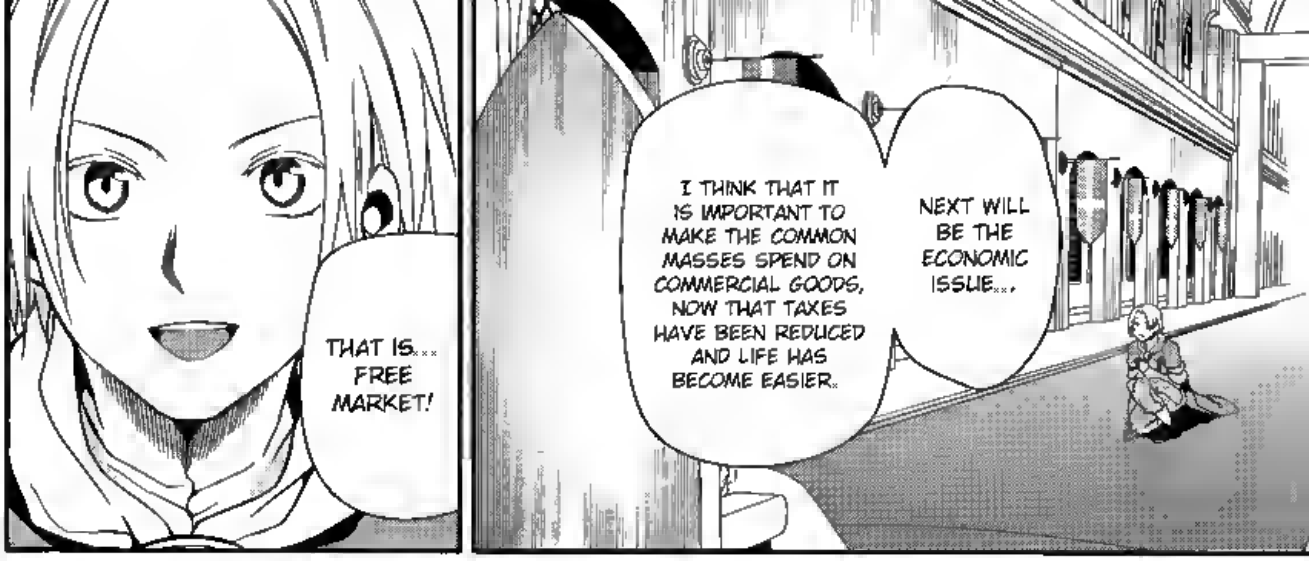

おぉ
THIS ADJUTANT IS A RATHER BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

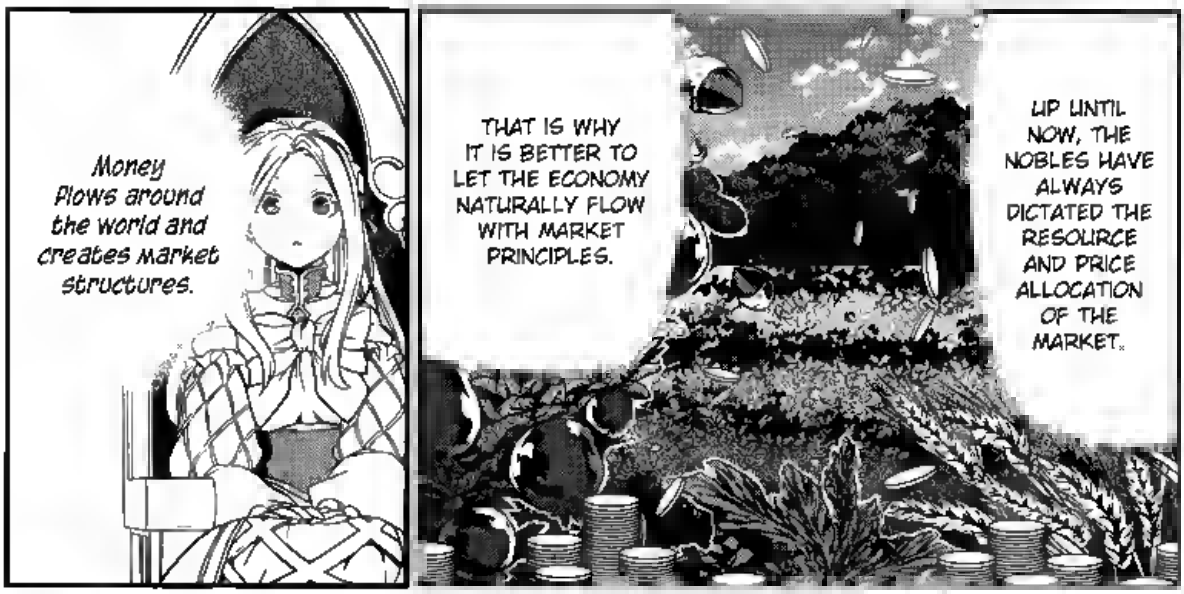

THIS LARGE QUANTITY OF MAGICAL POWER IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HIS.

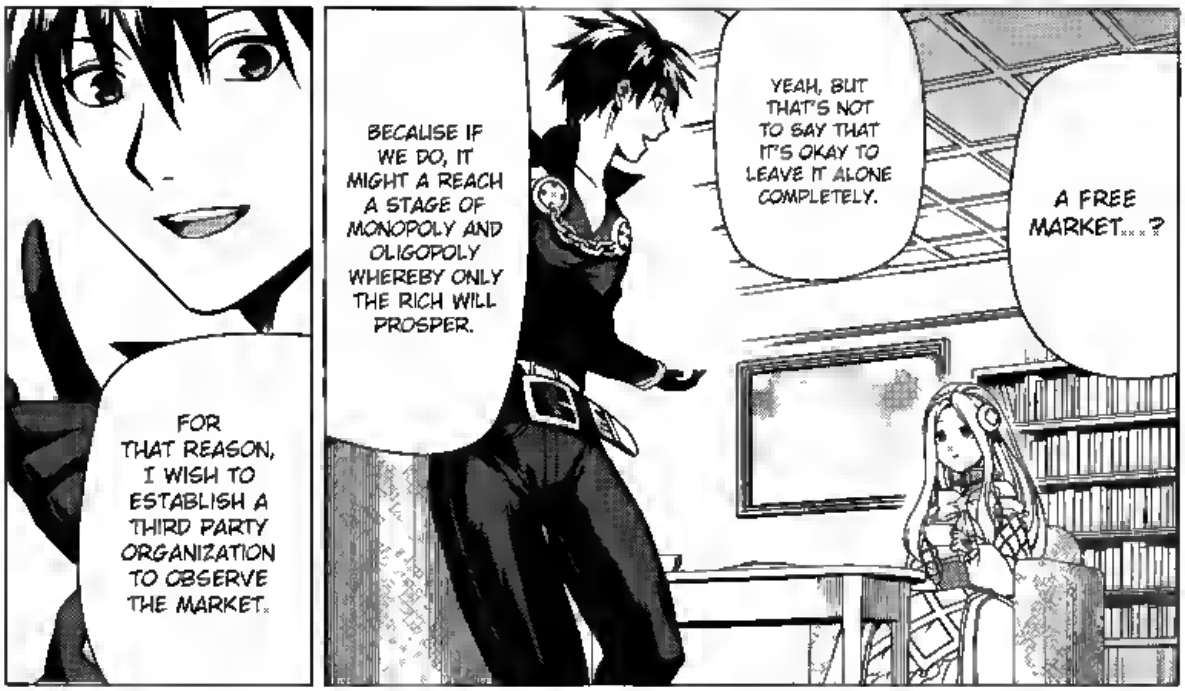
ONLY TALMA AND HER FOLLOWER BEAST BAJIL HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN HIS FACE.
WE'D BETTER KEEP VIGILANT.

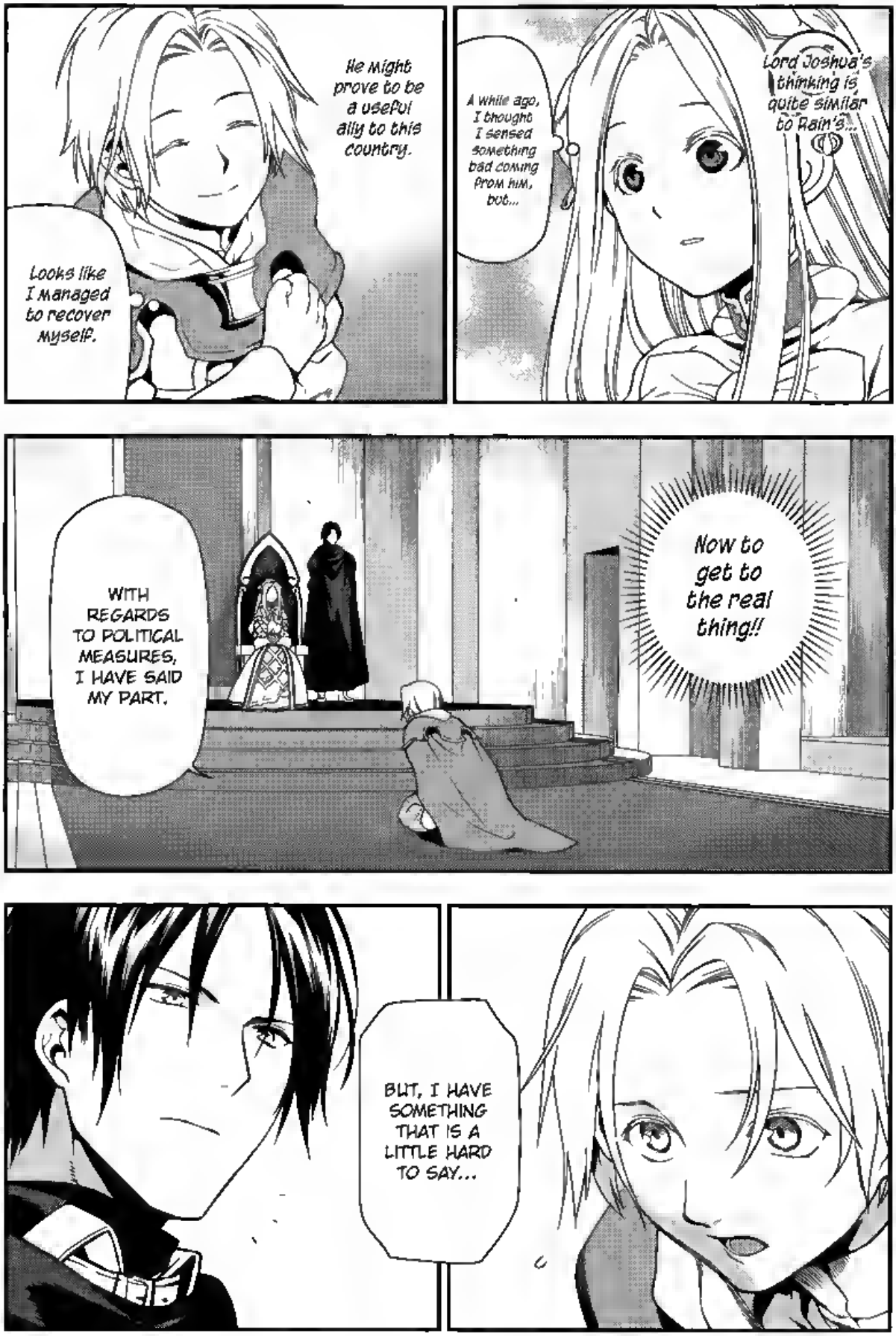

SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO SUBSTITUTE.
THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY, THE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES ARE EXTREMELY INTENSE.
HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE HIS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE, BUT THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY HIS MAGICAL POWERS WILL DECEIVE.


Kuku ku-
WITH THIS, THE UNFORTUNATE QUEEN WILL ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE DAYS TO LIVE.


THAT IS... FREE MARKET!
I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THE COMMON MASSES SPEND ON COMMERCIAL GOODS, NOW THAT TAXES HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND LIFE HAS BECOME EASIER.
NEXT WILL BE THE ECONOMIC ISSUE...


Money flows around the world and creates market structures.
THAT IS WHY IT IS BETTER TO LET THE ECONOMY NATURALLY FLOW WITH MARKET PRINCIPLES.
UP UNTIL NOW, THE NOBLES HAVE ALWAYS DICTATED THE RESOURCE AND PRICE ALLOCATION OF THE MARKET.


FOR THAT REASON, I WISH TO ESTABLISH A THIRD PARTY ORGANIZATION TO OBSERVE THE MARKET.
BECAUSE IF WE DO, IT MIGHT A REACH A STAGE OF MONOPOLY AND OLIGOPOLY WHEREBY ONLY THE RICH WILL PROSPER.
YEAH, BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT IT'S OKAY TO LEAVE IT ALONE COMPLETELY.
A FREE MARKET...?


He might prove to be a useful ally to this country.
Looks like I managed to recover myself.
A while ago, I thought I sensed something bad coming from him, but...
Lord Joshua's thinking is quite similar to Rain's...
WITH REGARDS TO POLITICAL MEASURES, I HAVE SAID MY PART.
Now to get to the real thing!!
BUT, I HAVE SOMETHING THAT IS A LITTLE HARD TO SAY...

I UNDERSTAND.
WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WOULD BE MATTERS WITH REGARDS TO MILITARY FORCE.
Looks like it's not that easy to remove that escort.
THIS PERSON IS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S REPRESENTATIVE
THE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF ARE YOUR MAJESTY'S RETAINERS.
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FOR THEIR SUBORDINATES.
THEIR LEADER IS NOT THE QUEEN, BUT THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEFS.
CURRENTLY, TWO COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF ARE MONOPOLIZING THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY FORCE.
IF THEY WERE TO TREAD ON THE OTHER PATH, SUNKWOLL'S ARMY WOULD IMMEDIATELY COLLAPSE.
AND THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO PROTECT YOU.

VIRTUOUS THEY MAY BE, BUT IF YOUR HIGHNESS BEHAVES SO DEFENSELESSLY, I CANNOT DENY THE VERY IDEA THAT TREACHERY MIGHT SPROUT.
HOWEVER, IF YOU SO BLINDLY ACCEPT THEIR RELIANCE AND BESTOW UPON THEM TOO MUCH POWER, THAT WILL GIVE BIRTH TO ARROGANCE.
IT IS NOT THAT I HAVE A LOW OPINION ON THEM, BUT I AM MERELY EXPLORING THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

It's working.

LET US ASSUME THAT THEY DO INTEND TREACHERY.
I'll just have to focus on one side and pan her distress with concrete logic.
One more push then.

HOWEVER, IF HE WERE A MERCENARY WHO EASILY SWITCHES BETWEEN MASTERS WHO PAY HIM HIGHER, WILL HE STILL REMAIN?
IF HE WERE A MAN OF CHARACTER AND A KNIGHT WITH FAME AND REPUTATION, HE WILL REMAIN BY YOUR SIDE.

And then she will approach me to become her close associate.
AS A DETERRENCE, YOUR HIGHNESS HAS TO TAKE MEASURES BY ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN PERSONAL ARMY!

BESTOWING AUTHORITY TO A PERSON LIKE THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO LETTING A HUNGRY WOLF LOOSE ON A HUMAN HABITATION.
Doubt him!

IS RAIN, ISN'T IT?
THE PERSON WHOM YOU ARE REFERRING TO...

I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
PLEASE WAIT!
カツ
カツ

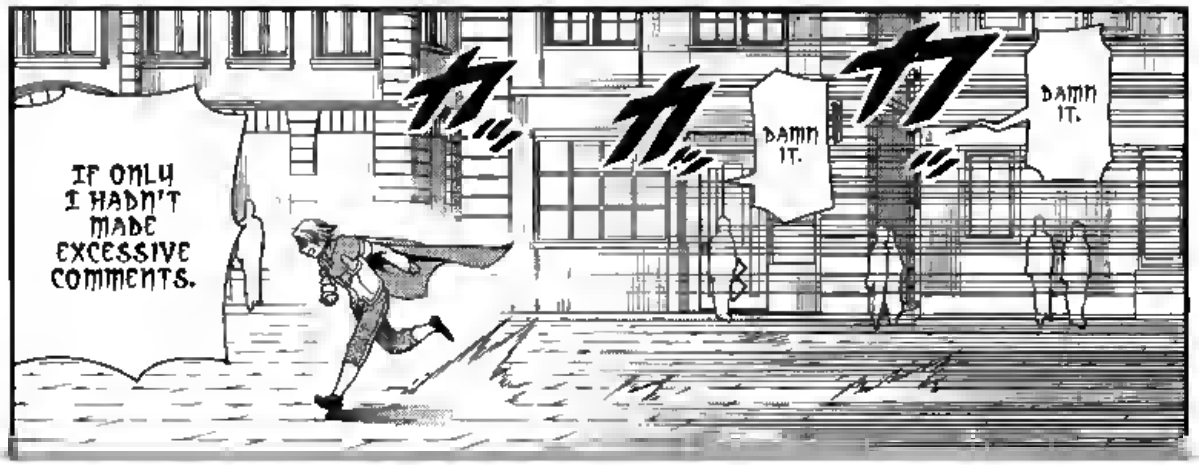
DO NOT APPROACH ME.
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!

IF YOU STILL INSIST ON APPROACHING HER, I WILL HAVE TO RESORT TO FORCE TO STOP YOU
THE INTERVIEW IS OVER.
INDEED
ONLY THOSE RANKED AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND ABOVE ARE ALLOWED TO DRAW THEIR SWORDS IN THE AUDIENCE ROOM.
BUT I'M THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
I'D LIKE YOU TO WITHDRAW.

SO BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU LEFT THE AUDIENCE ROOM. IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU POUT LIKE THIS.
HA...
TO PICK OFFICERS IN YOUR SPARE TIME THROUGH THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND PARENTAGE IS A VERY GOOD WAY, BUT...
FOR IT TO GO SO BADLY TODAY...
NO, HE WAS AN EXCELLENT PERSON.
HE HAS STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AS WELL.
IT WAS MORE OF ME HAVING A QUICK TEMPER.
I LET IT INTO MY HEAD AND WHEN I REALIZED THAT, I WAS ALREADY OUTSIDE.
Details please.
HE SAID THAT LETTING LORD RAIN, ASSUMING HIS BEING A SCHEMING PERSON WHO DEVISES TO OVERTHROW THE THRONE, POSSESS SUCH MILITARY STRENGTH IS EQUIVALENT TO LETTING A HUNGRY WOLF LOOSE ON A HUMAN HABITATION.
Ah.

A WOLF TREASURES HIS HERD. IT IS A GENTLE CREATURE.
HIS KNOWLEDGE IS SOMEHOW SUPERFICIAL.
OH, YOUR HIGHNESS.
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE SOME TIME OFF TOMORROW TO WATCH THE FIGHTERS' GATHERING?
YOU WILL FEEL MORE REFRESHED JUST BY WATCHING THE FIGHTS.
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR ME TO LEAVE THE BARRIER?
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF WARS OR WORK...

IT'S FINE.
WE HAVE ESCORTS READY FOR YOU.
THERE IS A BARRIER?
WITH REGARDS TO THE PREVIOUS UPROAR BY THE ASSASSIN, LORD RAIN HAS SET UP A BARRIER SURROUNDING THE ENTIRE CASTLE.
I AM SURE THAT LORD RAIN WISHES FOR YOU TO SEE THE MATCHES AS WELL.
SO IT'S DECIDED THEN.
TOMORROW, YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT THAT ILL-MANNERED BOY AND ENJOY THE MATCHES.


IF ONLY I HADN'T MADE EXCESSIVE COMMENTS.
DAMN IT.
DAMN IT.

!

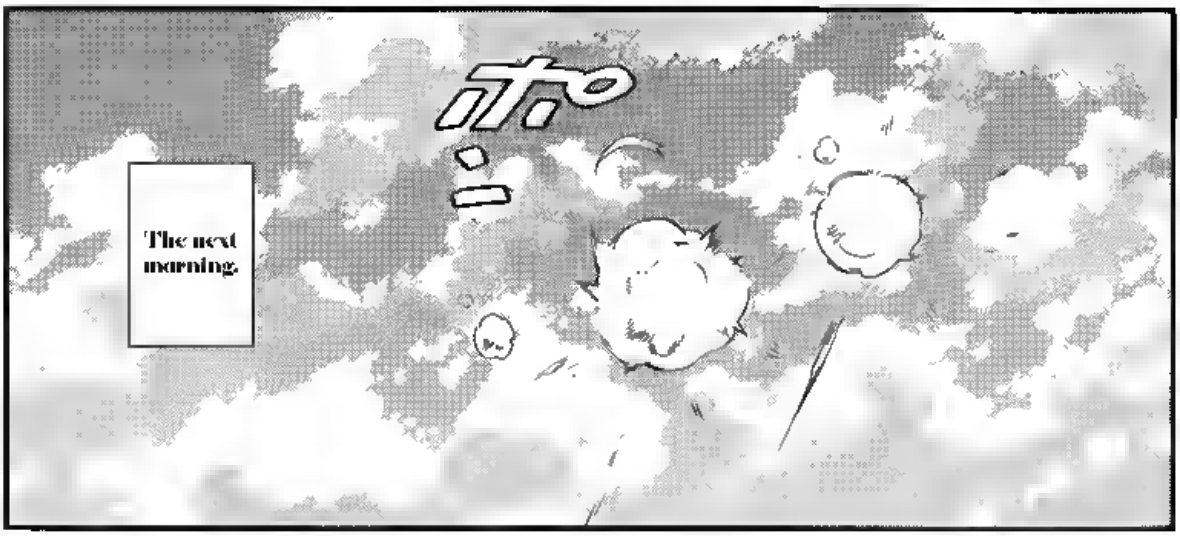
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN DISGRACED THIS MUCH.

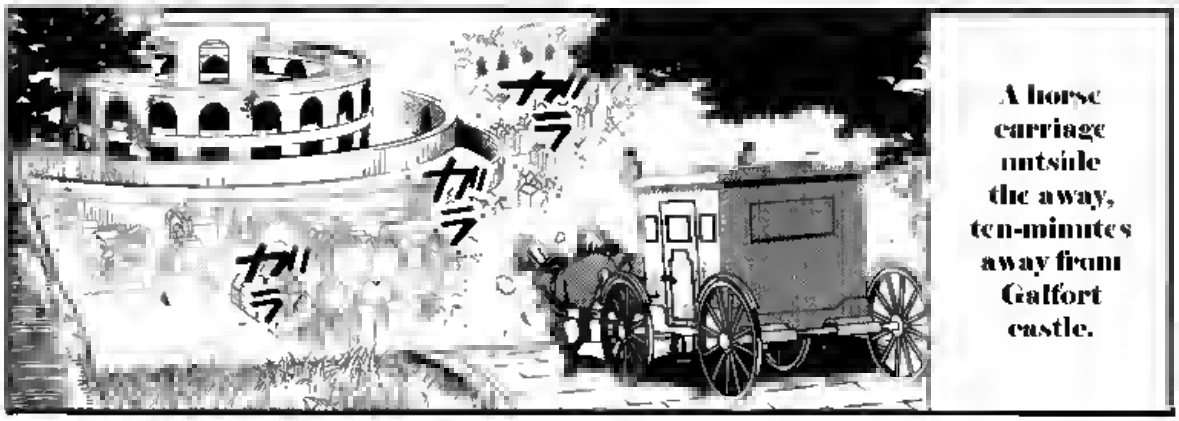
HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

No...
I.
I should be asking you instead
!?
My sincerest apology, Ma'am.
Are you hurt?
Well then, please excuse me
Thank you for your concern.

I've gotten where I stand today because of my looks and intelligence.
I can't give up now!

Someday, I'll make all of you...
Regret not choosing me.
That woman and Rain, and this country as well.


The next morning.
it.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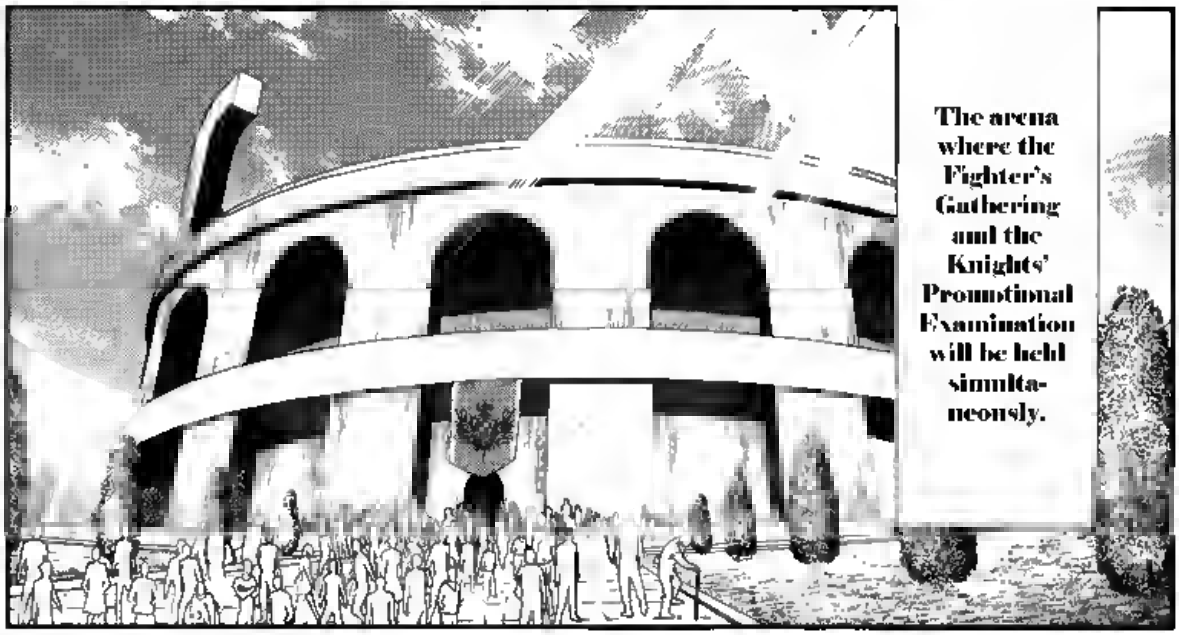
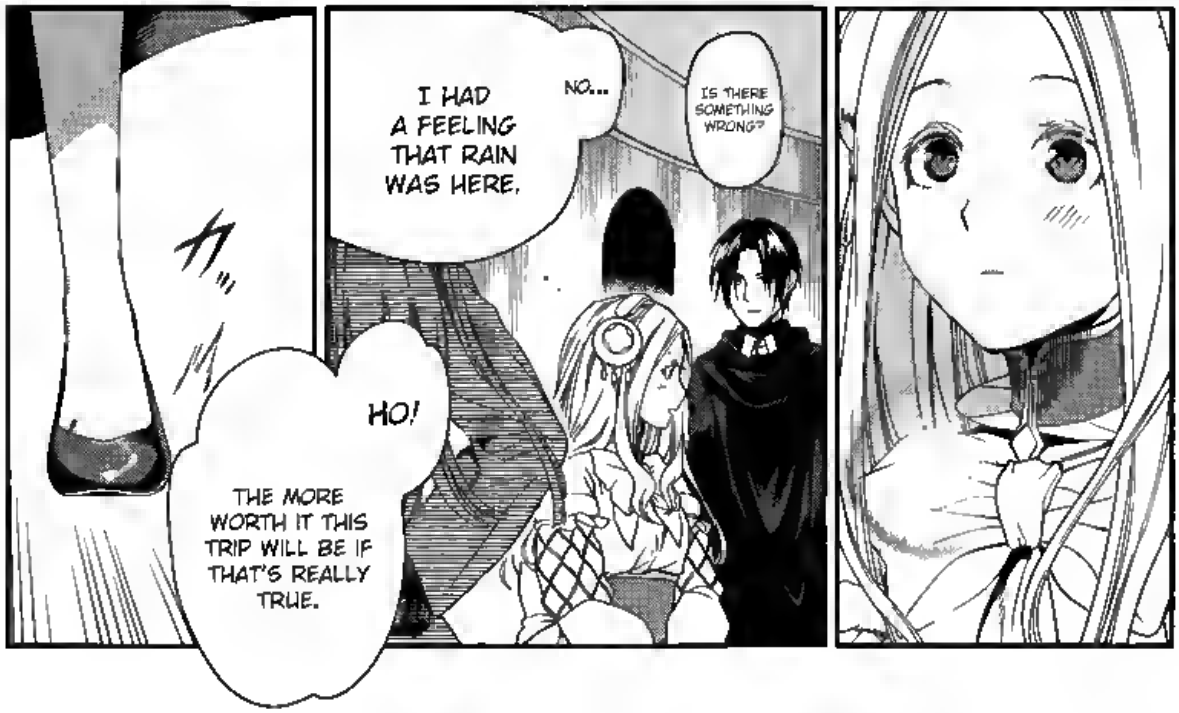
A horse carriage outside the away, ten-minutes away from Galfort castle.


The arena where the Fighter's Gathering and the Knights' Promotional Examination will be held simultaneously.

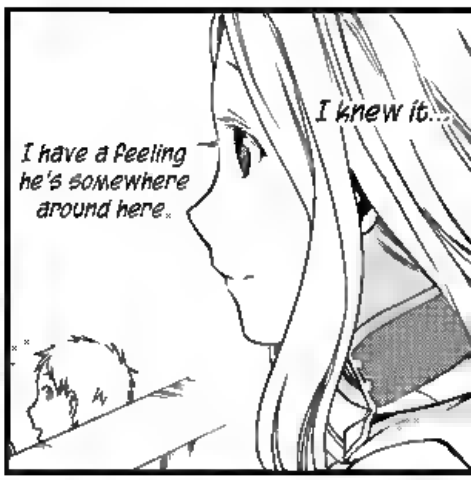

I HAD A FEELING THAT RAIN WAS HERE.
NO...
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
カ...
HO!
THE MORE WORTH IT THIS TRIP WILL BE IF THAT'S REALLY TRUE.

Long time no see.
GOOD MORNING.
AH, GOOD MORNING, LADY SHELFA.
THE TWO OF YOU ARE HERE AS WELL
FOL...
I MEAN LADY FOLNIER!
PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES TODAY.
SO, WHERE'S LORD RAIN?
HE SHOULD BE AT HIS CASTLE JUST ABOUT NOW, SO I THINK I WAS IMAGINING THINGS.
I SEE.
I wonder?
Eh?
THOUGH, WE'RE JUST SOME EXTRA BONUS AUDIENCE...
YES.
OKAY!

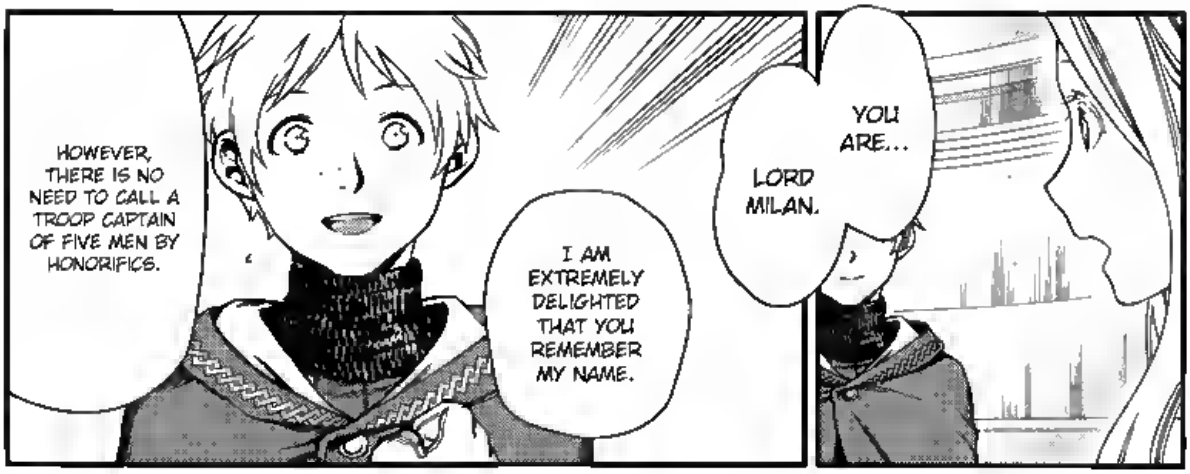
WAH...

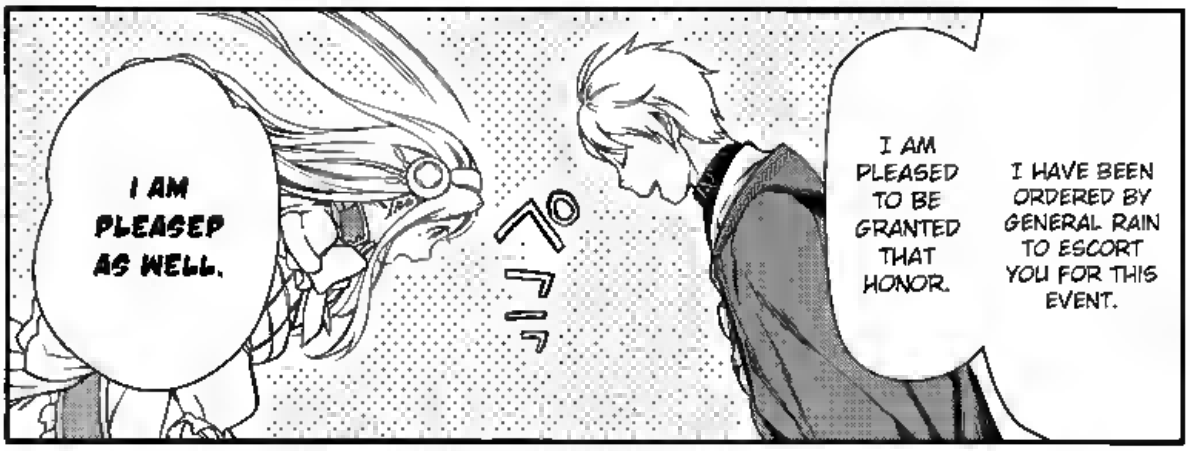
THE QUEEN!
IT'S HER HIGHNESS!

YOUR MAJESTY!
EH!?
NNEEE?

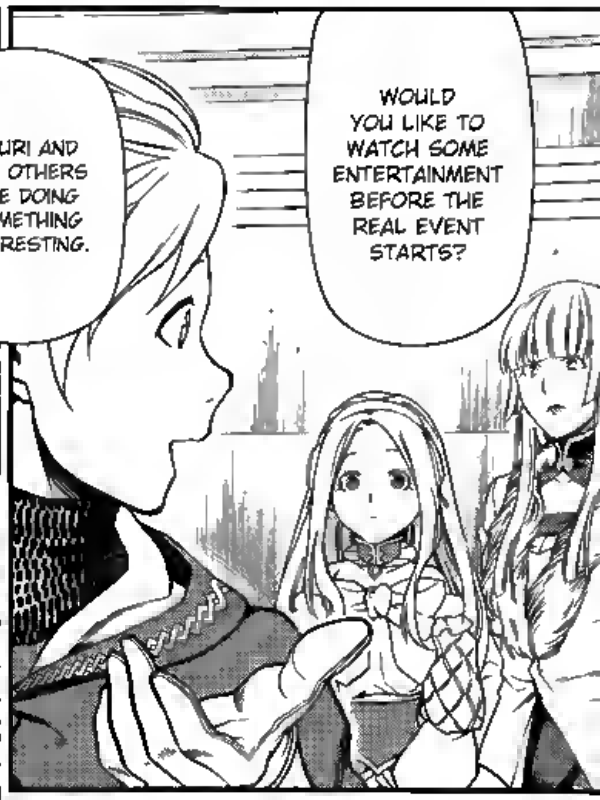

I knew it...
I have a feeling he's somewhere around here.

BE DIGNIFIED!
SMILE AS YOU WAVE TO THEM. THEY WILL BE HAPPY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT HUMBLE...
EVERYONE...
ぷぅ
おず：
WHAT A MAGNIFICENT NOISE.
EVERYONE REALLY LIKES HER, DON'T THEY?


HOWEVER, THERE IS NO NEED TO CALL A TROOP CAPTAIN OF FIVE MEN BY HONORIFICS.
I AM EXTREMELY DELIGHTED THAT YOU REMEMBER MY NAME.
YOU ARE... LORD MILAN.


I AM PLEASED TO BE GRANTED THAT HONOR.
I HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY GENERAL RAIN TO ESCORT YOU FOR THIS EVENT.
I AM PLEASED AS WELL.

Central entrance to the arena.
Place them, place them!


YUURI AND THE OTHERS ARE DOING SOMETHING INTERESTING.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH SOME ENTERTAINMENT BEFORE THE REAL EVENT STARTS?

SO WHO WILL BE THE ONES TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT ROUNDS!?
WE ONLY ACCEPT BETS BEFORE THE START OF THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS!
YOU THERE! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WANT TO EARN BIG BUCKS!
SO WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO BET!?
IF YOU DO IT NOW...
AH.
TEN PIECES OF SYANDEYS' COINS FOR SEYL IN BLOCK A!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRON-AGE!
ME!?
AN INSTANT GAMBLING SITE IS A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.

I WANT TO VOTE FOR BIG BROTHER!
WHY AM I REGISTERED INTO OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRY'S PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION!?
はは
DON'T BE SO STUBBORN.
JUNNA, THIS IS NOT VOTING FOR POPULARITY.
THIS IS A GAMBLING PLACE WHERE YOU GAMBLE YOUR MONEY ON THE PERSON THAT IS MOST LIKELY TO WIN
MY WALLET !!!
TEN THOUSAND (VISUAL ESTIMATION) ON SEYL IN BLOCK A!
おおおおおお
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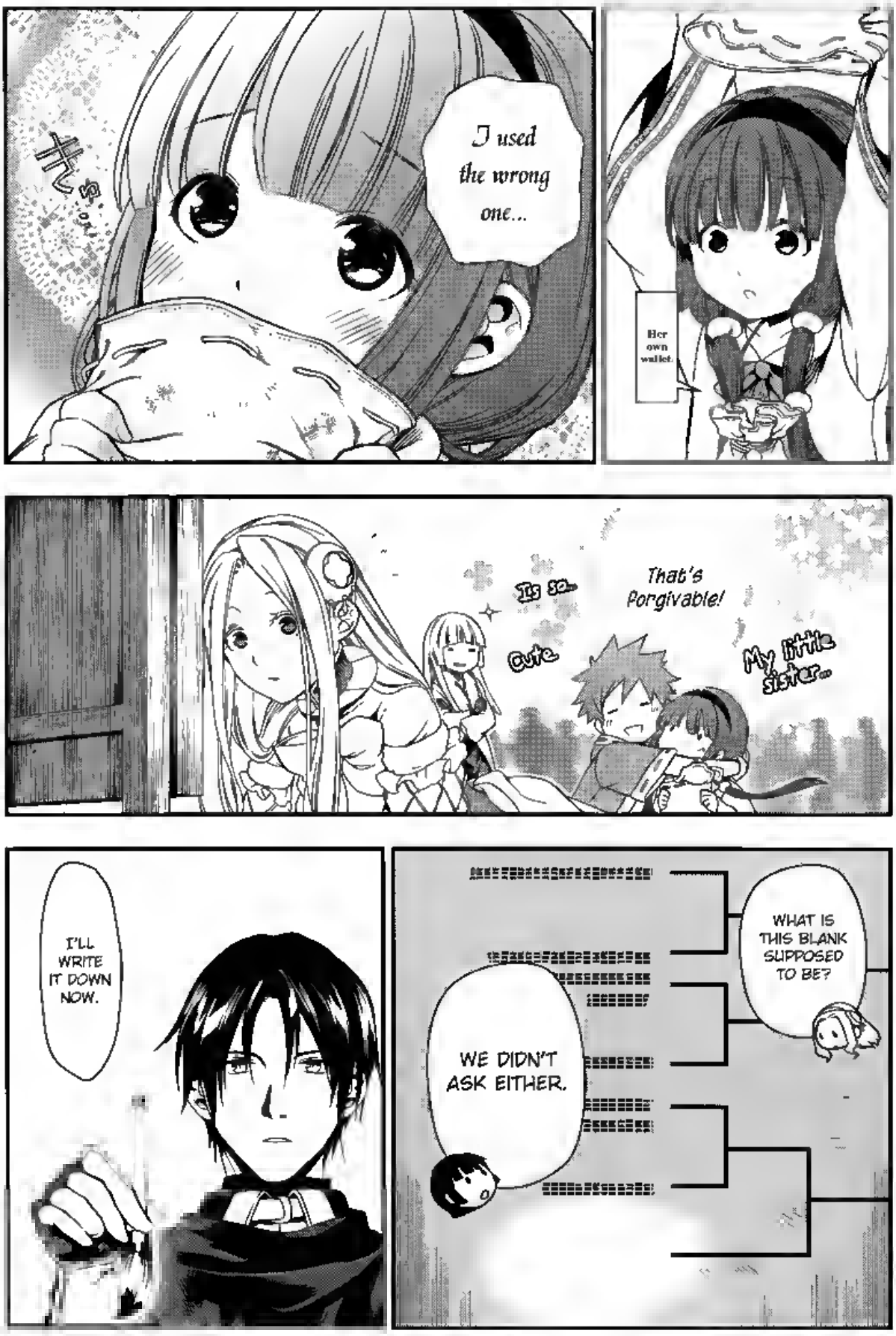
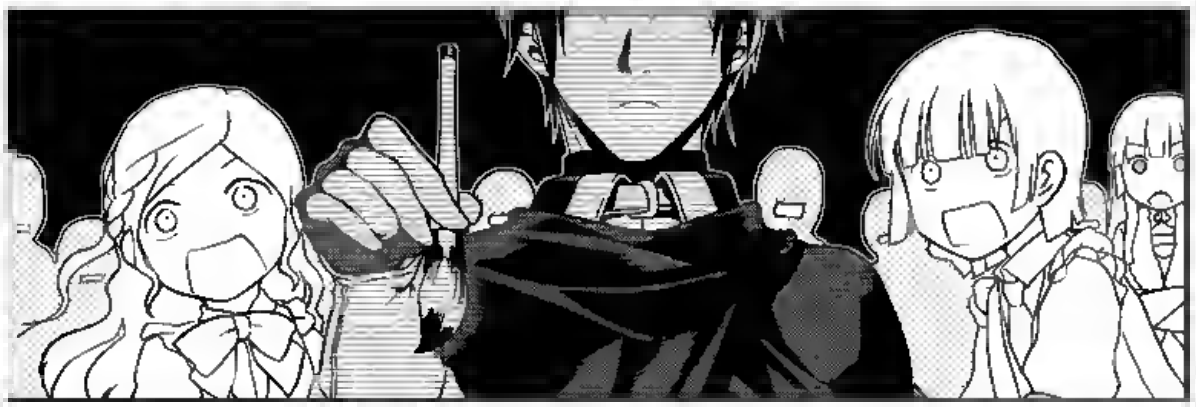
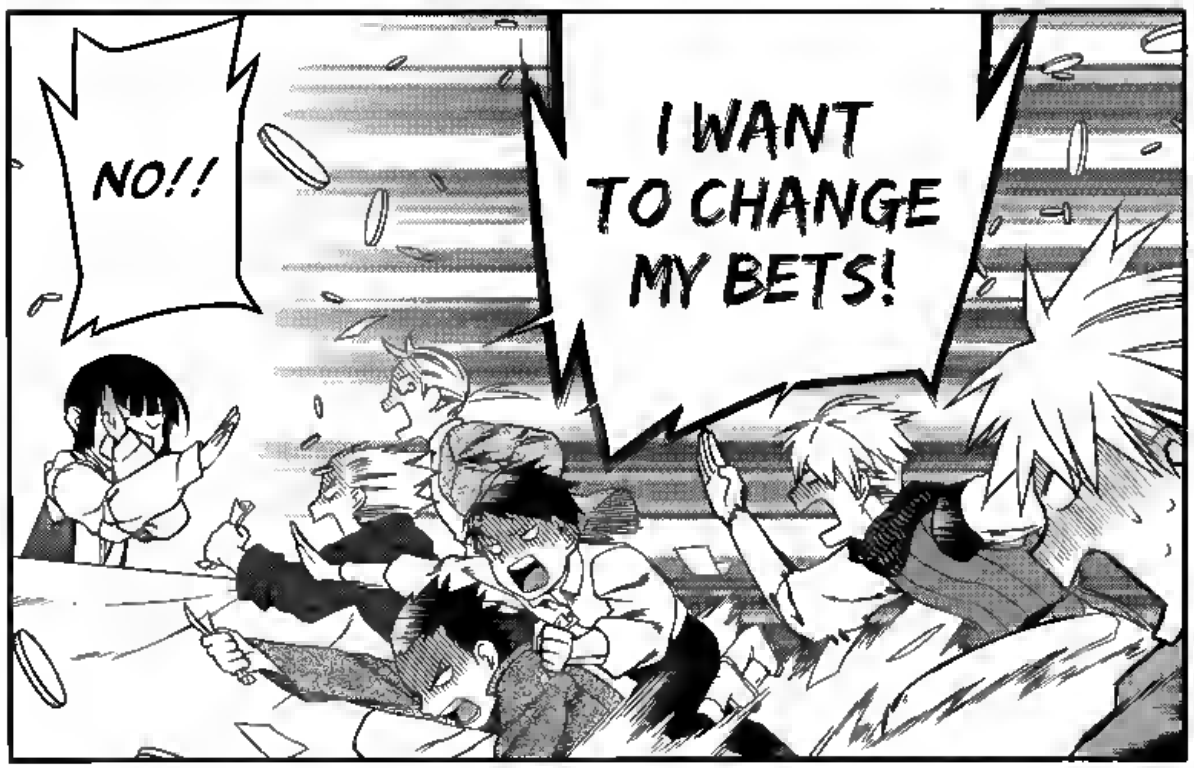

I used the wrong one...
Her own wallet.
Is so...
Cute
That's Forgivable!
My little sister...
I'LL WRITE IT DOWN NOW.
WHAT IS THIS BLANK SUPPOSED TO BE?
WE DIDN'T ASK EITHER.

black masked phantom thief.

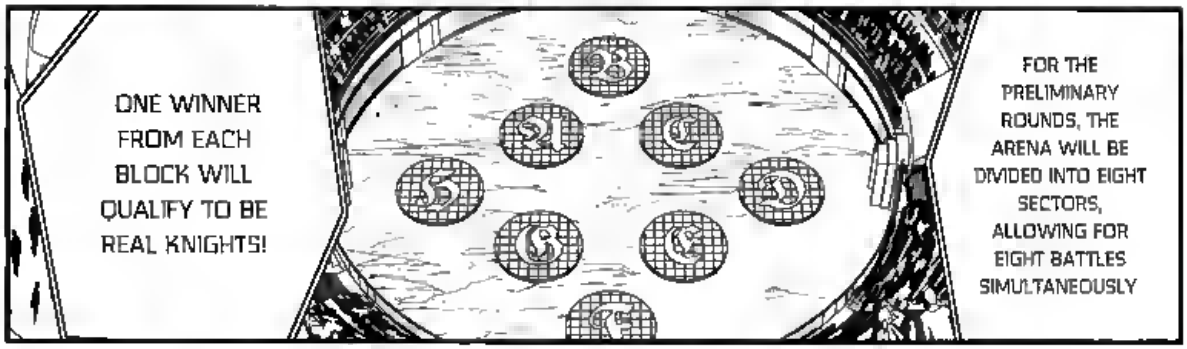




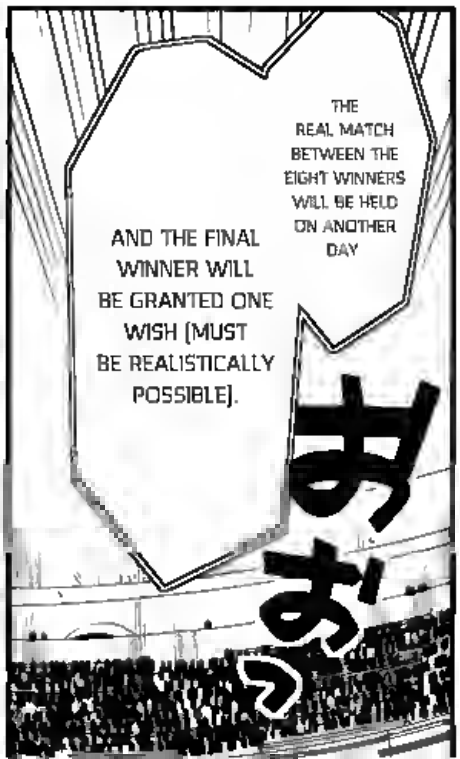
RAIN IS JOINING?
トン
トン
WHAT IS HE DOING TO US!
IF I'D KNOWN GENERAL RAIN WOULD APPEAR IN THE MATCHES, I WOULD HAVE BET MY ENTIRE SAVINGS!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN FOUND OUT.
agent: gunther varga.

ALRIGHT THEN, I WILL NOW EXPLAIN THE OUTLINE OF THE TOURNAMENT.

He's determined to go!!

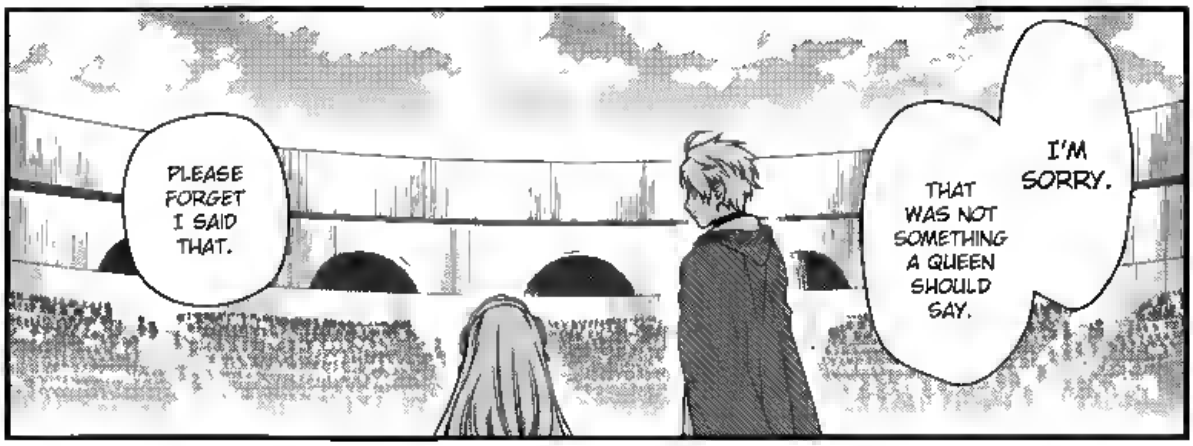

ONE WINNER FROM EACH BLOCK WILL QUALIFY TO BE REAL KNIGHTS!
FOR THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS, THE ARENA WILL BE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT SECTORS, ALLOWING FOR EIGHT BATTLES SIMULTANEOUSLY

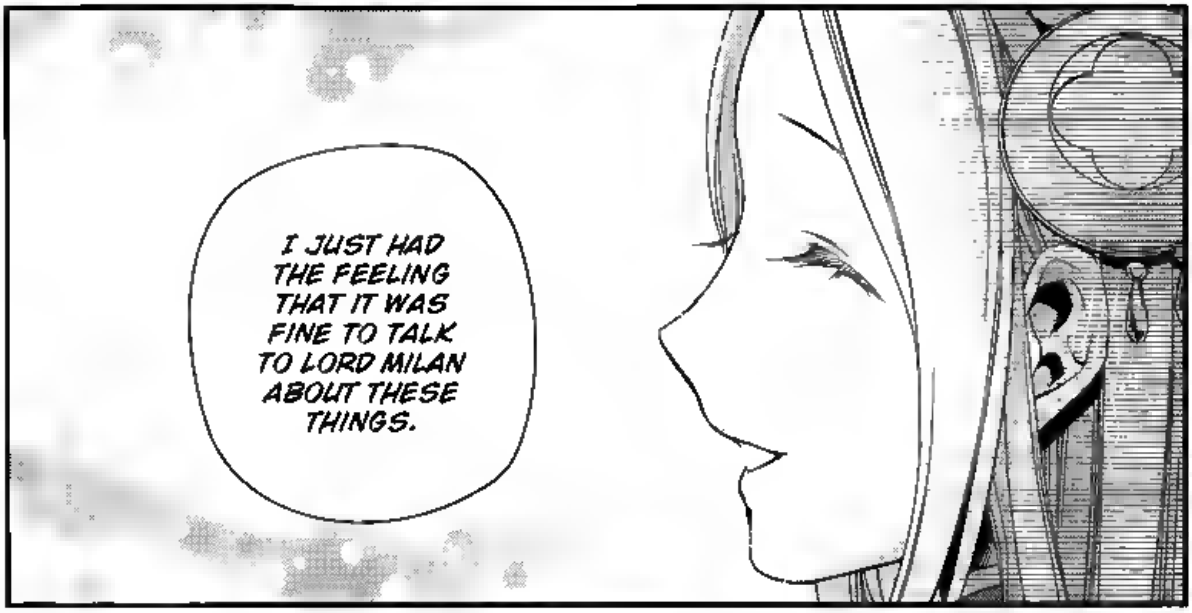
WEAPONS THAT HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BEFOREHAND ARE ALLOWED
THE SET TIMING WILL BE FIFTEEN MINUTES PER BOUT!
ANY PARTICIPANTS WHO SURRENDER, STEP OUTSIDE THE PREMISES OR KILL HIS OR HER OPPONENTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.


THE REAL MATCH BETWEEN THE EIGHT WINNERS WILL BE HELD ON ANOTHER DAY
AND THE FINAL WINNER WILL BE GRANTED ONE WISH (MUST BE REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE).
おお

I WILL USE GENERAL RAIN'S HANDMADE MAGICAL WEAPON TO KEEP THE AUDIENCE INFORMED OF REAL-TIME MATCHES.
INCIDENTALLY, I HAPPEN TO BE A MEMBER OF GENERAL RAIN'S TROOPS. MY NAME IS TALON, A CAPTAIN OF TEN MEN.
ガラ…
NO... I JUST FEEL BAD TAKING UP SO MUCH SPACE.
DO YOU FEEL UNCOM-FORTABLE BEING WATCHED?
THIS IS A MEASURE ARRANGED BY GENERAL RAIN.

NO...
ARE YOU ABLE TO TRUST GENERAL RAIN TO THAT EXTENT?
THAT IF IT IS HIM, NOTHING WILL EVER GO WRONG?
WELL OF COURSE I TRUST HIM..
BUT...
IF BY ANY CHANCE, HE MAKES A MISTAKE, I HAVE A FEELING THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE RESPECTIVE CONSEQUENCES.
IF THAT IS WHAT RAIN HAS DECIDED.
EVEN IF I WERE TO LOSE MY LIFE, I WILL NOT REGRET THAT DECISION.


PLEASE FORGET I SAID THAT.
I'M SORRY.
THAT WAS NOT SOMETHING A QUEEN SHOULD SAY.


I JUST HAD THE FEELING THAT IT WAS FINE TO TALK TO LORD MILAN ABOUT THESE THINGS.

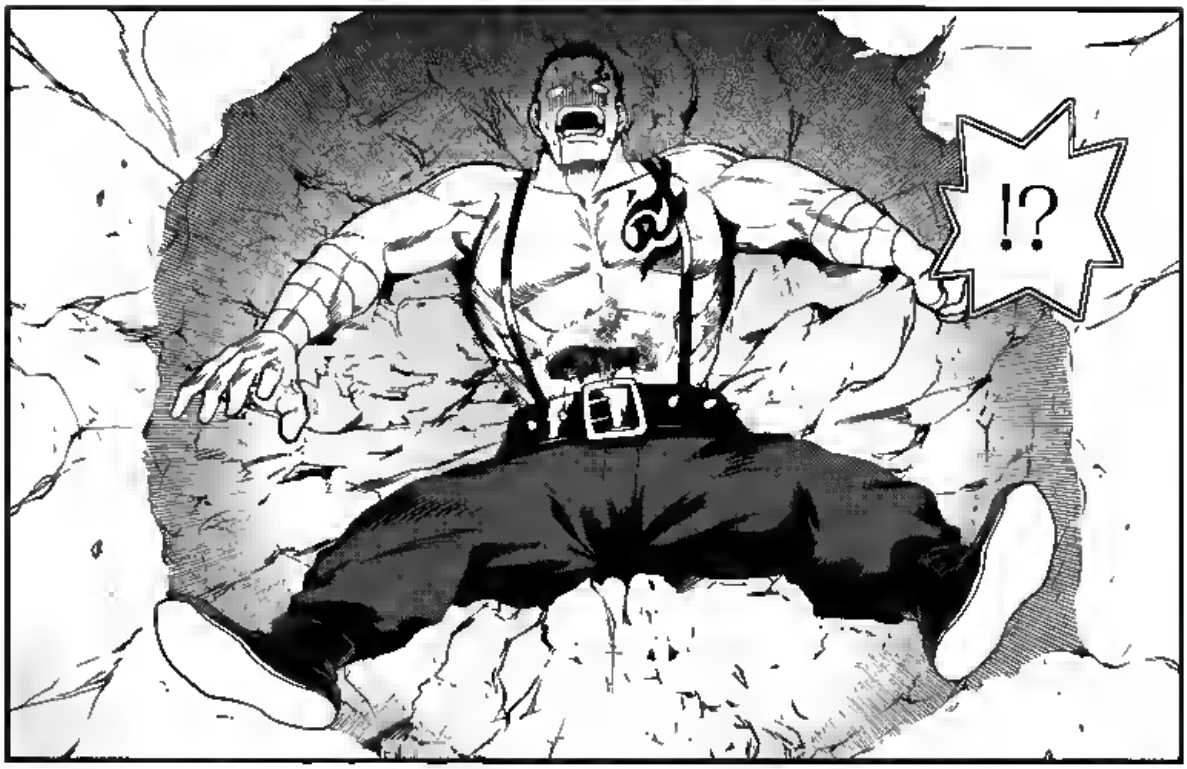
THE TIME FOR THE TOURNAMENT HAS ARRIVED!

IS THAT A KID FROM BLOCK B?
I THOUGHT THE MINIMUM AGE FOR PARTICIPATING WAS FIFTEEN?
IS THAT A GIRL?
THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR PHYSICAL BODY IS TOO LARGE!
THAT BIG GUY SURE IS LUCKY.
I WILL TRY TO DO THIS AFFECTIO-NATELY.
EVEN IF YOUR OPPONENT IS WEAK, MAKE SURE TO GET RID OF HER, PANPON!
HE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR THAT, LADY ELENA.

THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS!
IT'S 10 O'CLOCK!

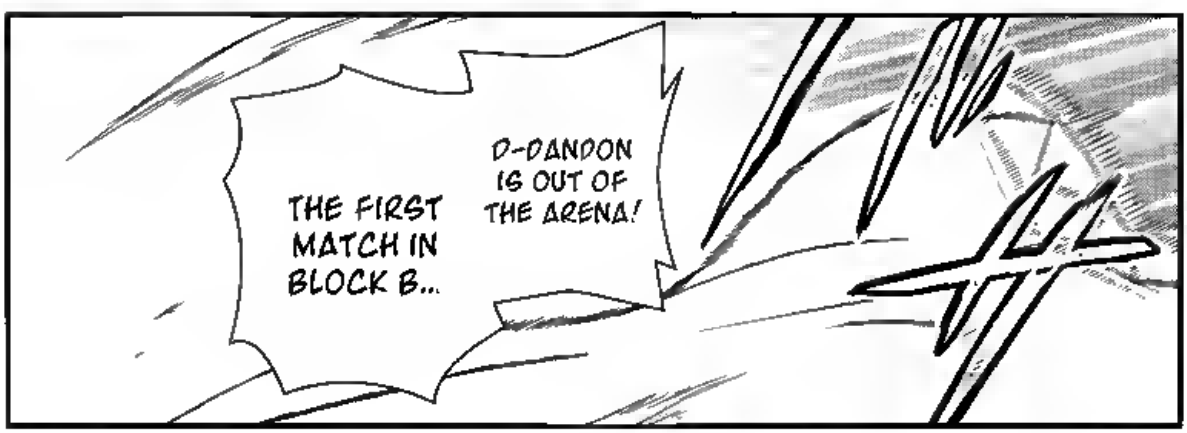
WH...
WHA....
WH...

ザワ
A THUNDEROUS ROAR FROM BLOCK B THE MOMENT THE MATCH STARTED!
ザワ
ザワ
THE MARTIAL ARTIST DANDON HAS DISAPPEARED...
バラ
ドシン
うおおおお!?
WHAT WAS THAT!?


!?

MR. REFEREE.
YOUR JUDGMENT?

HE WAS SENT FLYING TO THE WALL!?
BY THAT SMALL KID!?


D-DANDON IS OUT OF THE ARENA!
THE FIRST MATCH IN BLOCK B...

THE WINNER IS...
SYLVIA ROSENBURG!
The Vampire Master finally makes her main story debut!
monthly comic BLADE 5 3/28発売 月号へ続く

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